

EXCLUSIVE THIS WEEK
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Ministers risk new battle with EU Britain is set to abandon mad cow cull

By Philip Webster and Nigel Hawkes

THE planned slaughter of 125,000 cattle is likely to be shelved by ministers tomorrow, and the cull — designed to persuade Europe to lift the ban on British beef exports — may never be carried out.

The move, which could inflame the dispute between Britain and her European partners, comes in the light of new research suggesting that "mad cow" disease will die out naturally in five years and reflects ministers' pessimism that the EU will agree to raise the ban this autumn. Conservative business managers also doubt that the order authorising the cull would get through the House of Commons.

No new cases of the CJD variant which sparked the beef crisis have been reported in the past three months and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, is now expected to suggest to the ministerial committee on the BSE crisis that the whole culling scheme be reviewed.

A decision to shelve or reduce the culling programme would inflame tensions with the European Commission and individual member states, and put a big hole in the Florence summit agreement which ended the British policy of non-cooperation with the EU. But it would delight the farming community and Conservative MPs from rural areas who have become increasingly vociferous in their opposition to the slaughter.

Mr Hogg will meet Franz Fischler, the European Farm Commissioner, on Monday to

Legal aid plans abandoned

The Government has shelved proposals which would have stopped legal aid for underserving cases and forced people to pay towards their legal aid bills.

The reforms, which were a central part of the White Paper on the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme published by the Lord Chancellor in July, are not now expected to appear in the Queen's Speech this autumn. — Page 2

discuss the prospects for lifting the ban, but the indications have not been favourable. The minister is understood to believe that with if there is little likelihood of the ban being lifted soon, there is no point in pressing ahead with a cull that had never been justified on scientific grounds.

Ministers agree, however, that some 22,000 cattle should be slaughtered as a result of the discovery in August that BSE can be passed from mother to calf. Mr Hogg immediately accepted that the slaughter scheme should be widened to include a limited number of the "last born" calves from infected cows.

An Oxford University study showing that BSE was in rapid decline, that it was likely to peter out by 2001 and that slaughtering thousands more cows would not hasten the process has meanwhile added

fuel to the internal Tory debate.

Under present plans, MPs would consider the order authorising the selective cull next month, and it would be put into effect almost immediately. But during the summer recess more and more Tory MPs suggested that they would not back the programme, and unless Labour supported the order — which appears unlikely — the Government would not get it through.

Ministers fear that even if the Commons did agree the cull, the European Commission might demand even more. While they accept that it would be difficult to retreat from the Florence deal, they believe they can argue that the situation has changed. An informed source said last night: "The world of science has moved on since Florence. We have followed science so far and we must take account of the new evidence."

The British Association for the Advancement of Science was meanwhile being told that no cases of the new form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease had been confirmed since the end of May, leaving the total at 12. Professor John Pattison of University College London said: "That means the news could have been very much worse. But good news will be a lot of time to be sure of."

In March, when the new strain was first identified and tentatively linked to infected beef, Professor Pattison suggested that there could eventually be 500,000 cases.



Ross and Carolyn Jenkins, who say they will sue the Great Ormond Street children's hospital after a doctor there was criticised by a coroner for "unwise and erroneous" actions which led to the death of their daughter Debbie, six

Swiss bankers told to repay £4.6 billion of Nazi gold

By Michael Binyon and James Landale

A HUGE hoard of gold looted by the Nazis during the Second World War is still being held in Swiss banks, the Foreign Office disclosed yesterday — and now Britain is to ask for it back.

A top Swiss bank official has admitted that gold worth \$500 million — £4.6 billion at today's prices — was hidden in the country's vaults, but only a fraction has been surrendered.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will use a visit to Zurich next week to demand that the Swiss trace and repay the rest. He will tackle his opposite number, Flavio Cotti, in the light of the Foreign Office report he commissioned in response to questions about the Government's role in tracking down the gold and suspicions that Britain was sitting on a fortune.

The report concluded that gold smelted from occupied countries' bullion reserves and concentration camp victims' jewellery was exported to all the neutral countries throughout the war, with by far the largest share going to Switzerland. About \$223 million of gold came from Belgium, \$193 million from The Netherlands and up to \$24 million from Hungary. The ingots were, however, stamped with false pre-war dates so that the Swiss could claim that they did not knowingly receive any plundered gold.

They admitted after the war that they had bought \$88 million of gold traceable to Belgium and about \$415 million of German gold, but said they could not be held liable to restore all of the looted gold.

After lengthy negotiations, Switzerland agreed in 1946 to repay some 250 million Swiss francs in gold — described by the allies as better than nothing — although neither it nor the gold found hidden in

Germany has yet been returned to its owners.

More than 50 years after the German surrender, more than 5,000kg of ingots are also being stored by the Bank of England because of a deadlock over Albanian gold, also held in Britain, which has only recently been broken.

Hundreds of thousands of claimants are seeking repayment and all those who will receive a share have been identified. But most of the gold lost during the war has never been recovered and the Bank of England estimated in 1945 that there was enough to meet only just over half of the claims. "This meant, inevitably, that no country would receive back all the gold it claimed to have lost and that individual claims would be extremely difficult to prosecute," yesterday's Foreign Office report said.

Greville Janner, chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust, which put pressure on Mr Rifkind to initiate the investigation, welcomed the report, but described it as inconclusive and said that it raised as many questions as it answered.

While the report dealt with gold stolen from national banks, it revealed little about gold looted from individuals. He also wanted to know how much gold ended up in Britain and how much was still there.

Eldred Tabachnik, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "It's significant because it's the first independent confirmation that Switzerland received a great deal of looted Jewish gold and it's important now that we ascertain how much gold there is and what should be done with it."

Greed and confusion, page 5
 Leading article, page 19

Saddam fires missiles at US planes

IRAQ said last night that its air defence units had fired three missiles at American aircraft policing the no-fly zone in southern Iraq, forcing the "hostile targets" to flee. An Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said: "The American enemy planes violated Iraq's air space using bases in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, flying 88 sorties."

Last week Saddam Hussein said he would ignore air exclusion zones declared by America, Britain and France over northern and southern Iraq in the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War. (Reuters)

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Blair kicking us in teeth, say furious union leaders

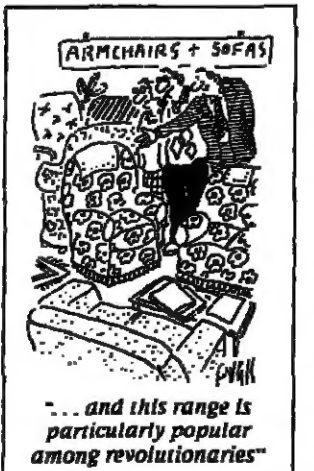
By Jill Sherman and Philip Bassett

TONY BLAIR tried last night to defuse the worsening dispute over Labour's plans to curb strike action as trade union leaders accused him of "kicking them in the teeth".

The Labour leader arrived in Blackpool yesterday to face fierce protests from trade unionists over his proposals to force unions to ballot their members again if employers put forward a better offer during a dispute. He was also snubbed by post office union leaders who called two more Royal Mail strikes for this month after pointedly refusing to ballot their members.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, who is regarded as one of Mr Blair's allies, also fuelled the row by accusing Labour of issuing "confusing statements on the serious issues of avoiding and resolving

industrial disputes which take us backwards not forwards". After a meeting yesterday afternoon, the Communica-



... and this range is particularly popular among revolutionaries

tion Workers' Union said that it would hold 24-hour strikes on September 20 and 22. They come after eight previous strikes over pay and working practices. Last night, David Blunkett, Shadow Education and Employment Secretary, intensified trade union anger by announcing a four-point plan to try to prevent damaging public sector disputes. The measures include extending the present pay review bodies to cover other public sector workers and calling on employers and trade unions to enter binding agreements to resolve disputes.

But the plan was thrown into confusion when the Labour leadership appeared to backtrack on one of the main

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Fears of surge in winter meningitis

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A SURGE in meningitis cases this winter was predicted by public health specialists yesterday after official figures revealed that last winter's total was the highest for more than 20 years.

The figures, published by the Office for National Statistics, show that the number of meningococcal meningitis cases between October and March was 835, the highest since the early 1970s. England and Wales were worst affected, and so far there has been no similar rise in Scotland. Sir Kenneth Calman, the Government's chief medical officer, told the Commons health select committee earlier this year that meningitis was the disease he feared most this winter.

The meningococcal form of the disease is the most common, accounting for over half

of all cases of meningitis. One in ten of the population carries the bacterium, and can pass it on by close contact. The disease is most common in children aged under four, but last winter there was a sharp rise in the number of teenagers affected. In 1995 it caused 196 deaths.

Cases of meningococcal meningitis rose 27 per cent between the March quarters of 1995 and 1996, from 373 to 475, and cases of meningococcal septicaemia rose 83 per cent, from 207 to 379. Public health specialists say the high rates have continued through the summer.

However, the health department played down the rise. A spokeswoman said: "We dispute the way the figures have been presented. There has been an increase, but not of that order."

Catherine Cookson does it her way at 90

By Robin Young

AGED 90, Dame Catherine Cookson, whose books have sold more than 100 million copies, is launching a new career as a singer with the release in November of a tape featuring her renditions of old-time favourites and songs she has written herself. Called *Her Way*, the tape has been mixed and cleared of extraneous background noise at the Abbey Road studios immortalised by the Beatles.

Dame Catherine, who is bedridden with a rare blood disorder, recorded some

of the songs ten years ago, when she was 80. She said: "I experimented for my own pleasure and discovered that, if I put my heart into it, I could sing."

The tapes were stored in the attic when she became ill, but were recently rediscovered by her husband, Tom. "He played them and we were impressed as this woman began to sing," she said. "I could not believe it was me."

The tape was played to Ray Marshall, who produces all the Cookson films on television, and he arranged for Colin Towns, who writes scores for television, to

provide backing music. Mr Marshall, who is currently shooting another Cookson drama, *The Rag Nymph*, said that a sneak preview of the finished tapes was held at Dame Catherine's ninetieth birthday party, adding: "It was quite something, and had a lot of people in tears — it was very moving."

Dame Catherine intersperses her songs with explanations of what they mean to her. In one example, she says: "My grandfather always sang *Danny Boy* to me when he'd had a drink and was three sheets to the wind."



Dame Catherine on song

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Plans to overhaul legal aid system are shelved

FRANCIS GIBB
LONDON CORRESPONDENT

Plans to stop legal aid funds being used on undervalued cases by forcing people to pay towards legal aid bills have effectively been shelved by the Government. The reforms, a central part of the White Paper on the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme published by the Lord Chancellor in July, are not now expected to be in the Queen's Speech this autumn.

The measures would have seen people paying far more towards

their legal aid bills. In some civil disputes they would have had to make contributions well beyond the end of a case, putting their homes at risk.

The White Paper reforms also included a new, stiffer "deservingness" test aimed at stopping legal aid funds being used on what the Government sees as "too many weak, trivial and undeserving cases". A third measure was to enable people who win a case against a legally-aided opponent to recoup their costs.

However, despite early hopes

that the legal aid changes could be part of a likely Bill on civil justice reforms, it now looks certain that they will not be part of the Government's legislative programme in the run-up to a general election.

Instead, the Lord Chancellor's Department is likely to press ahead with those parts of the White Paper which can be implemented without legislation. These are mainly wide-ranging reforms to create a National Health Service-style internal market in legal services, with legal aid delivered under block con-

tracts. Gary Streeter, MP, Junior Minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, indicated that other parts of the reforms would also be delayed. He told the Justice's Clerks' Society in Warwick that, under the reforms, the Legal Aid Board would be taking over the job of granting criminal legal aid from magistrates' courts.

Instead, all legal aid would be handled by the Legal Aid Board which would award block contracts to law firms and advice agencies. Mr Streeter said yesterday, however, that the change could, realisti-

cally, take several years. "Legislation is needed to enable contracting of full legal aid services to advice agencies," he said.

The disclosure that a Legal Aid Bill is effectively shelved comes as the legal profession is preparing a full-scale campaign of opposition to the measures. Today, the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, and nine advice and civil liberty organisations, will issue a joint statement opposing the proposals.

Russell Wallman, of the Law Society, said he would welcome a

gradual approach to the plans, enabling them to be tested in pilot projects and research, rather than swift legislation. He said: "There is, in fact, no need now for legislation to ration legal aid by cash limits because, far from being out of control, the budget has in recent years been under-spent."

Nor, he added, was there a need for legislation to create a new "deservingness" test. The granting of legal aid was already controlled by existing rules, although these could be tightened.

Guy Mansfield, QC, vice-chair-

man of the Bar Council legal aid committee, said it was a pity the Government was not proceeding with a long-overdue reform on the legal aid merits test which, he said, would meet public concern that legal aid goes to deserving cases. "Instead, they will now proceed with other measures which are tinkering at the edges — such as proposals for standard fees for advocates which are simplistic and crude, and amount to a Bar-bashing exercise which will ensure that people on legal aid do not get a competent service."

Labour may hit the wealthy to avoid having to raise top rate for earnings

Blair may adopt US tactic to close tax loopholes

BY PETER RIDDELL

THE Labour leadership is considering ways of reducing tax loopholes enjoyed by the wealthy as an alternative to raising the top marginal rate of income tax of 40 per cent.

Among the options being examined is a requirement for very wealthy people to pay a set minimum amount of income in tax and limit the total benefits they receive from various tax allowances and loopholes.

The system is a key weapon in America that ensures the very rich pay a significant proportion of their income in tax, however skilful — or

New Labour is launching a fresh drive to encourage young people to join the party by cutting its membership fee to just £1 for those aged 15 to 21. The usual annual fee is £15. In another move, members who pay their subscription for the next three years will get an extra year free.

devious — their accountants. A second option is to cap the amount people can receive in allowances. Tony Blair accepts that he will have to make clear well before the general election whether a Labour

Government would raise the top marginal rate. An announcement is likely after the Budget in November.

Labour leaders have repeatedly said they do not want to reintroduce penal rates of personal taxation. They are also aware that any increase in the top marginal rate, even if it affects only a few people, will be presented and exploited by the Tories as a tax increase and could affect the attitudes of middle income earners, traditionally aspiring to a higher tax bracket.

The party is looking at how the very well-off, those earning well over £100,000 a year, may exploit tax allowances and loopholes to reduce the average rate of tax they pay to below the top 40 per cent marginal rate. Apart from the main personal allowances, there are also ways of reducing tax liabilities by making maximum pension contributions and through various venture capital schemes.

Labour will argue that this small group should pay a "fairer" share of taxes, but the party won't want to be seen to be penalising success, so laying itself open to Tory charges of raising the overall level of taxes.

Left-wingers want to raise taxes on the rich, so that an attack on loopholes could be presented as an alternative to an electorally more risky rise in the top marginal rate, though this has not been ruled out.

There are problems with the main alternatives to raising the top rate. For instance, the politically strange position could arise that, if the Government insisted that everyone should pay a minimum percentage of their income in tax, the rate might have to be fixed below the top 40 per cent. This would be necessary to prevent the creation of a new steep marginal rate at the level of earnings where the new minimum rate of tax would have to be paid.

There are parallel problems with limiting the total amount of allowances which any individual can enjoy, in effect clawing back some of these allowances. Some of these difficulties could be avoided by phasing in the new arrangements. No decisions have been taken.

Post union chiefs call more strikes

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

LEADERS of the main postal union last night announced two further Royal Mail strikes but the rail union called off three of the regional strikes due to hit train services today.

The move by the Communication Workers' Union will lead to the Government suspending, probably today, the Post Office's statutory letter monopoly for a further three months, and could well see Labour Party leaders withdraw their tentative support for the postal strikes.

The two additional 24-hour strikes come after the eight the union has already staged over pay and working practices and which led to the PO's under-£1 letter monopoly being suspended.

The strikes are to begin at 7pm on Friday, September 20, and at 10pm on Sunday, September 22, will severely hit mail services over the whole weekend in what the CWU said last night was a "precursor to a further range of strike action aimed at bringing the dispute to a satisfactory conclusion".

Alan Johnson, CWU's joint general secretary, said: "We have talked to the employer for over two years. We have spent over 100 hours at the

Tony Blair during a visit to the Andrew oil field in the North Sea yesterday

Blair 'kicking us in teeth'

Continued from page 1

proposals. Mr Blunkett and Mr Blair seemed to play down the idea of immediate legislation to force unions to hold new ballots of their members. Party sources said later that negotiations over all the proposals would start with Acas next Thursday, but if legislation was needed, it would be introduced.

They also made clear that individual members needed to be consulted about new offers and that while other options could be considered, it was likely that that could be done only through legally enforceable second ballots.

Law Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union, Aslef, led a hostile reception to Mr Blair. He said that he could not accept the proposals

and accused the Labour leadership of "union-bashing and virtually kicking the trade union movement in the teeth". Mr Adams said he could not believe what he was hearing from Labour in warning the unions that legislation would be needed to implement some of the measures. "It is a tragedy that we could see the first Queen's Speech contain the ninth piece of anti-union legislation — coming from Labour. Mr Blunkett would be better employed looking after the unemployed."

Many trade union leaders were also privately angry about comments Mr Blunkett made yesterday morning when, in an article in the *Evening Standard*, he dubbed some unionists as "armchair revolutionaries". He wrote:

"An incoming Labour government is not going to tolerate the activities of armchair revolutionaries whose only interest is disruption and who use disputes as an opportunity for mischief-making."

Mr Blair made clear on his arrival that he would disregard the troublemakers within the trade union movement, but he was sure that "sensible" union leaders would support his plans. He denied that he was "bashing" anyone or trying to play politics with anyone. "We are looking at new ways to resolve disputes in a new labour market where there is intense competition round the world," he said, adding: "You are not going to solve the problems of the 21st century with the debates of the 70s and 80s."

TUC backs single currency

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY AND JILL SHERMAN

UNIONS are to campaign for Britain to join a single currency at the earliest opportunity despite a warning that rushing in could bring a Labour government down.

The Trades Union Congress endorsed Britain's early entry into monetary union even though Union abstained and several others including the RMT opposed the idea. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, called for support because there were more advantages in joining than in staying out.

Opponents fear that trying to meet the strict economic convergence criteria of the Maastricht treaty will mean big cuts in public expenditure and the loss of many jobs. At a fringe meeting, Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, warned Tony Blair that if he took Britain into a single currency from the start his government would be faced with permanent recession. "Within 18 months we would be as unpopular as John Major and the Tories. We would be devastated in local government and the next election. Any talk about the need to get a second term would be washed away."

Cable firms force BT to cut prices

British Telecom, losing more than 50,000 customers a month to cable competitors, is cutting its prices. From October 8, the cost of evening and night-time national calls will come down 20 per cent, from 5.8p to 4.65p a minute, while daytime national calls will fall from 9.8p to 8.8p a minute. BT cut international weekend charges earlier this week by between 5 and 23 per cent and yesterday reduced weekday calls between 10 and 25 per cent. A five-minute call to the US next month will be 92p a minute, down 31 per cent from early September. Consumer reaction, page 25

Royal family talks

Senior members of the Royal family and their advisers are to meet at Balmoral this month for a review of the future of the monarchy, for the first time since the Prince of Wales's divorce. They are likely to discuss how to rebuild the Prince's image, the monarch as head of the Church of England, and the 1701 Act of Settlement which debars heirs to the throne from marrying Roman Catholics.

Dunblane memorial

The Prince of Wales has accepted an invitation from relatives of the victims of the Dunblane shooting to attend a memorial service for the 16 children and their teacher who died. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, and George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary who lives in Dunblane, are also expected to attend the service at Dunblane cathedral on October 9.

School boycott halted

Parents yesterday called off their boycott of a Nottinghamshire school where an allegedly unruly ten-year-old is receiving personal tuition to avoid a strike by teachers. Fifty pupils at Manton Junior School, Worksop, were kept at home for a second day yesterday but parents said they would send them back today as "a show of good faith".

Designer is cleared

The designer of an award-winning building has succeeded in overturning proceedings in which she was convicted of being unqualified as an architect and fined £2,000. Gabrielle Bramante, who won four awards for her Citizens' Advice Bureau building in Chessington, Surrey, said she had not been told of the proceedings until they were over.

Abusers to be shielded

People who allegedly abused youngsters from children's homes in Wales are to be granted anonymity. Sir Ronald Waterhouse, chairman of an inquiry ordered by the Welsh Secretary, said at a preliminary hearing in Ewloe, Flintshire, that individuals against whom allegations are made would be referred to by numbers or letters.

Elderly most in fear

Elderly women are more afraid of attack than any other group but are at the least risk, a national police campaign launched yesterday claims. A police fact sheet aimed at reducing anxiety reports that 1 in 3 elderly women feel very unsafe but fewer than 1 in 4,000 will be assaulted. Young men feel the most secure but face a 1 in 38 chance of attack.

First woman top gun

Helea Gardiner, 27, became the RAF's first woman fighter pilot to carry out a live intercept with "unfriendly" aircraft yesterday when she went into action in her Tornado F3 fighter. She was scrambled from RAF Leuchars, Fife, after two Russian maritime patrol aircraft were spotted flying into British airspace to spy on a Nato exercise.

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Consultant is accused of failing to provide adequate supervision of his junior staff

Report into deaths at hospital finds catalogue of errors

By PAUL WILKINSON

AN INVESTIGATION into a unit at Grimsby Hospital where three people died and two babies were stillborn has found a catalogue of errors, misjudgments and ineptitude.

A report published yesterday says that delicate surgery was carried out by unsupervised inexperienced staff, patients had been misdiagnosed and complaints wrongly handled.

Michael Muldoon, consultant in charge of the obstetrics and gynaecology department, escaped overall condemnation, but was accused of poor communication, a lack of leadership in specific cases and failing to supervise juniors.

The Northern and Yorkshire region of the NHS executive has sent copies of the report to the General Medical Council for it to consider taking further action. Mr Muldoon, 60, retired last January while the inquiry team of two outside specialists was gathering its evidence.

Michael Hallberg, a former policeman from Louth, Lincolnshire, whose wife Kay died in 1963, six weeks after going into Grimsby Hospital for an apparently routine scrape of the womb, said:

"This report is a whitewash, it is a collection of corresponding opposites. On one hand they say Muldoon and his staff did wrong, on the other they say they acted well."

His wife's bowel and uterus were punctured during the operation carried out by Mr Muldoon's registrar and a second operation was carried the next day in an attempt to repair the damage. Some of the wounds were not found, necessitating further operations. Mrs Hallberg, 40, contracted peritonitis, suffered heart and liver damage and required a tracheostomy to relieve lung problems. She also went blind before she died.

"I want to know who killed my wife," Mr Hallberg, 44, said. "I am absolutely disgusted by this report, it answers nothing. I am talking to my solicitor about suing the hospital. They are moral cowards, no one has yet told me why my wife died."

The inquiry report concludes that: "The tragedy might have been avoided by better assessment of the competence and better supervision of the junior doctor before she was allowed to operate on her own and earlier involvement of a general surgeon to deal with the complication of the

gynaecological procedure." Mr Hallberg said the junior in question, a Dr Padma, returned to India shortly before his wife's inquest. All inquiries have failed to trace her.

Jane Davies, whose sister Carol Richardson died from massive bleeding after Mr Muldoon accidentally severed an artery during a hysterectomy in August 1990, said: "This report is a load of rubbish. He did not have sufficient expertise or training to do my sister's operation. If he had, my sister would be here today."

The inquiry concludes that "Mr Muldoon should have received further training in



Terry and Diane Parnell with son Jack. The parents blame the hospital for their daughter Mishka's death

the surgical technique before undertaking it on his own." An inquest recorded a verdict of misadventure and the hospital authorities have paid Ms Richardson's family £3,500 in an out-of-court settlement.

Terry and Diane Parnell claimed that their daughter Mishka was brain-damaged in the womb in 1990 during a "blind" amniocentesis test, in which a syringe is inserted to extract fluid to test for Down's syndrome. Three attempts had to be made before a satisfactory sample was obtained. The child was born with scars on her tongue and the back of her head. She died before her third birthday

because of her condition. The report acknowledges that the procedure used was acceptable some years ago, but today was done with the benefit of ultrasound scanning to indicate how the baby was lying. It says: "The assessors expressed concerns about Mr Muldoon's knowledge of amniocentesis."

Mr Parnell said last night that he had obtained an independent medical report on his daughter's death which he hoped would form the basis of a claim against the hospital authorities.

In a fourth case, Mr Muldoon rejected a GP's opinion that an expectant mother

was diabetic. The woman subsequently suffered two stillbirths attributed to the condition. The report says: "Many essential investigations were not carried out."

The inquiry team examined 18 cases over 20 years and found cause for concern in two-thirds of them. However, it concludes that they were "uncommon events". It considered that overall "the level of care provided by Mr Muldoon was of a satisfactory standard". It makes 51 detailed recommendations which Grimsby Hospital has accepted. An advice line has been set up for concerned patients on 01472 875500.

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Father of Julie Ward halts film

By CAROL MIDDLEY

THE father of Julie Ward, the British woman found murdered in a Kenyan game reserve, has halted a BBC film about the hunt for her killers, complaining it was being turned into a Hollywood-style blockbuster.

John Ward, 63, who has waged an eight-year campaign for justice, had agreed to sell the rights to his book to the BBC, which wanted to make a drama-documentary about the story. But he said the corporation later decided to change the project to a full-length feature film and introduced changes to the script.

Mr Ward said the producers did not like the "dull periods" during his investigation and created new action sequences. They wanted to include a fictitious attempt on his life by masked men at Nairobi airport and to show Mr Ward's thriving hotel business going bankrupt because of the amount of time he was spending on the case. He was also to experience severe difficulties with his wife, Janet, as their marriage suffered under the strain.

One of the final straws was that Patrick Stewart, who starred in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, was being touted to play Mr Ward. Anton Rodgers, the British character actor, was also named as an alternative to Stewart.

"I saw the script and it was unacceptable," said Mr Ward, who had a clause in his contract with the BBC that allowed him to cancel the project if it was not completed within a certain time. "It was supposed to be for television but the BBC got increasingly excited about the project until it was going to be released in cinemas worldwide, then shown on planes, then released on video and shown on TV last of all. Its timescale got longer and longer and that meant that, fortunately, I was able to exercise my option and pull the plug."

Miss Ward, 28, was found murdered in 1988. Her charred remains were discovered in the remote Masai Mara game reserve. Initially the Kenyans insisted she had been eaten by wild animals, but were later forced to admit she had been murdered.



Mishka Parnell, born with scars, and Michael Muldoon, who did the amniocentesis test on her



Parents plan to sue Great Ormond Street over heart girl's death

By TIM JONES

A SENIOR doctor at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children was criticised by a coroner yesterday for "unwise and erroneous" actions which led to the death of a six-year-old girl. After the inquest, the parents of Deborah Jenkins said they intended to sue the London hospital.

Ross and Carolyn Jenkins say that Deborah died because the doctor disregarded their wishes and did not obtain their consent for the procedures that were carried out. Stephen Chan, the St Pancras Coroner, recorded a verdict of misadventure. "It is not difficult to understand the

parents' sense of outrage and indeed their feeling of betrayal," he said.

Mr and Mrs Jenkins had consented to Deborah being given a diagnostic catheter examination, a routine procedure that involved inserting a probe through the groin and into the heart. But the inquest was told that they had not given permission for a curative procedure that involved inserting a balloon via the catheter to the heart and inflating it to expand the narrowed coronary artery.

Deborah died in July last year when the balloon burst and efforts to retrieve it with another catheter led to a blocked blood flow, causing brain damage. Mr Chan said: "No doubt

the doctor's regret at the tragic consequences is of little comfort to the parents. His decision may have been unwise and erroneous, certainly for Deborah, as it contributed to her premature demise."

The coroner said that there was no evidence of gross negligence by Dr James Taylor, the consultant paediatric cardiologist. "I am satisfied he was acting conscientiously and carefully and was sincere in his belief that he was acting in the best interests of his patient."

The inquest was told that Deborah, from Sprowston, near Norwich, had been born with serious heart defects and had undergone two open-heart

operations. It was only when she was on the operating table the day before she died that Dr Taylor and his team discovered that a conduit which had been inserted into her artery had been narrowed because of the pressure of the muscle.

Dr Taylor said in evidence that he realised the condition could be rectified by a balloon catheter. He tried without success to get hold of Mrs Jenkins to seek her approval. He decided to proceed with the balloon probe as the alternative would have been to subject Deborah to another operation involving heart surgery.

After the verdict, Mr Jenkins, 39, said: "Dr Taylor did what he had no

authority to do. I am not impressed with him at all. He has got to go. We are going to take litigation against Great Ormond Street Hospital. I don't care what it costs." Mrs Jenkins said: "I only signed consent for a diagnostic inspection and now she is dead."

A statement from the hospital said that Dr Taylor attempted to obtain permission from Deborah's family but they were not available in the short time in which he had to make the decision. The statement added: "Any child's death is deeply saddening, especially one such as Deborah's, whom we had looked after since she was very young."



Deborah Jenkins: born with heart defects

Girl who survived murder attack recalls the killer

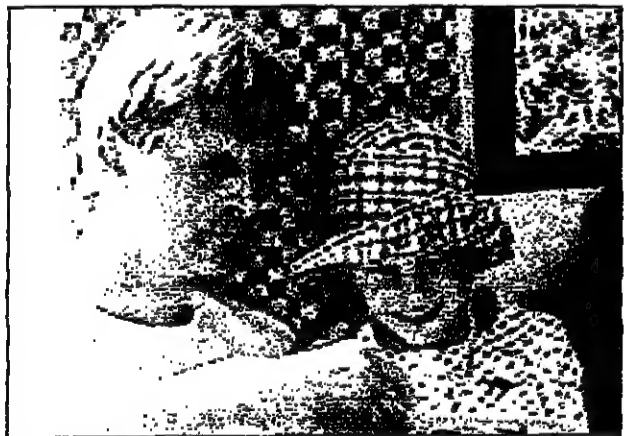
By LIN JENKINS

JOSEPHINE RUSSELL, the nine-year-old girl left for dead after a frenzied attack that killed her mother and sister, now has a clear memory of the double murder and has given details to the police.

She was left with the speech level of a two-year-old after surgery on her battered skull but she can now recall the events of the afternoon of July 9. Doctors had thought that the shock of what happened, or the operation on her brain, might have left her memory blank.

However, she has been able to tell police about the afternoon her mother Lin, 45, and sister Megan, 6, were murdered as the three of them walked home across country from school in the next Kent village of Goodnestone.

She has told police about a man fitting the description of the one seen in the area by others that day. Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens said: "We have devised a method of communicating with Josephine. Over a period of weeks we have been going back over her life and personal details and we have now started filmed interviews about the events of July 9. "It is obvious that Josephine has a clear memory



Josephine with her father, Dr Shaun Russell, who says her memories are now causing her distress

about the attack and she has already provided us with information that backs up the description of a man seen near the murder scene and other details. This could be a turning point."

Detective Constables Pauline Smith and Ed Tingley have been with Josephine since the attack and have been coaxing information from her using models and games. Her father, Dr Shaun Russell, said: "When I first started to prepare her for these interviews she was upset and reluctant to do it. But now it has started she is very keen and is co-operating very well."

Dr Russell said that Josephine was beginning to show more anxiety as she recalled the events of July 9. "When she was in hospital and couldn't remember anything she was more or less constantly happy. But as she has remembered more and more her happiness has decreased and periods of anxiety and worriedness have increased."

Dr Russell said also that he plans to move house and perhaps go back to Wales where they used to live, or take up another post in Africa. "The more I see Josie afraid in the place we live, the more I want to move away."

Jealous boy given life for murder

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A JEALOUS 14-year-old boy became one of Scotland's youngest convicted murderers yesterday when he was given a life sentence for killing a married man who allegedly flirted with his girlfriend.

The teenager showed no emotion as he was told by a judge at Edinburgh High Court that he would be "detained without limit of time".

A jury found him guilty of the murder of Scott Fraser, 26, of Carronshore, near Falkirk. Co-accused Paul Halliday, 23, of Carron, Falkirk, was also found guilty and jailed for life.

The court was told that Halliday and the boy followed Mr Fraser home along a disused railway track near Carronshore. They attacked him once, then left, only to return with two girls to batter and stamp on him again. Mr Fraser had severe brain injuries after being punched, kicked and stamped on. The judge, Lord Abernethy, refused to allow the boy to be named as he was under 16 and might appeal.

Yesterday, Margaret Fraser, 34, the dead man's widow, who has a son Christopher, 3, said the claim that her husband had flirted with the 18-year-old girl was a "cock and bull story".

Cantona is sued over 'hotel brawl'

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

A BUSINESSMAN is to sue Eric Cantona for damages, alleging that the Manchester United captain assaulted him at a hotel in Chester.

A preliminary hearing of the civil action brought by Tom Doyle, 38, a salesman from Liverpool, will be heard in private by Judge David Gee after a fracas at the hotel where several United players were celebrating a win at the local races. The 30-year-old French international denies the allegations.

Ricky Weatherburn, a Northampton company director, said that in May 1994, when the alleged incident

International hotel, the England and former Manchester United midfielder Paul Ince had suffered racist taunts from other customers.

Mr Weatherburn said: "Somebody hit me and my mate threw a punch at someone else. Then all hell broke loose." It was claimed that tables and chairs were overturned in the turmoil that followed.

Mr Doyle alleges that he was assaulted as the players left the premises.

The footballers had been to the races at Chester as the guests of the jockey Walter Swinburn. They had backed

Cantona: denies claim

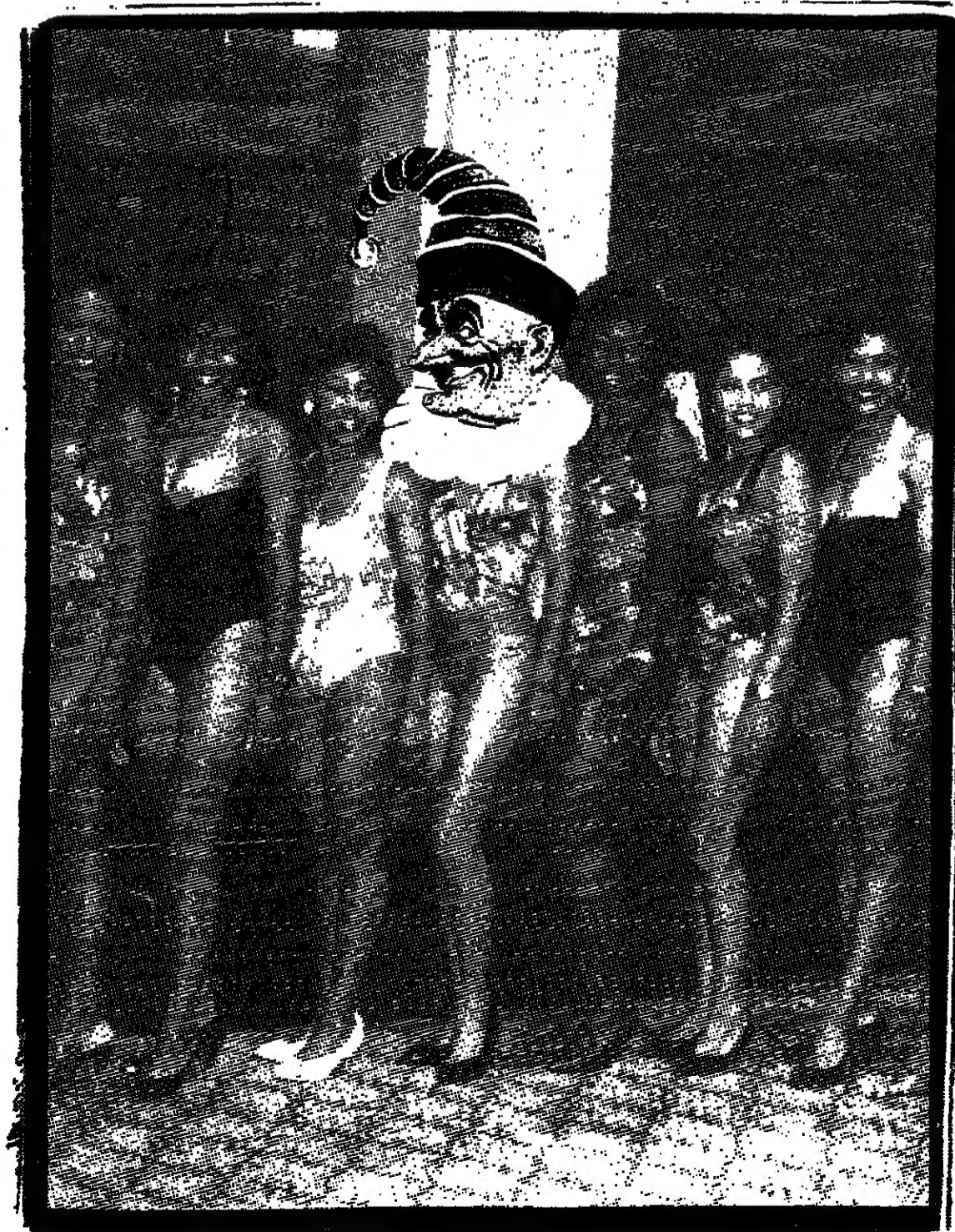
winning several hundred pounds. Maurice Watkins, the Manchester United director and solicitor who was in

Turin yesterday for the side's match against Juventus in the European Cup Champions' League tonight, said: "This case is in the Liverpool County Court and in the nature of an arbitration proceedings. The action is being defended but, with a case pending, I do not think it is appropriate to make any further comment."

Neither Cantona nor Mr Doyle need be present at the hearing at Liverpool County Court next Wednesday, which will be held in chambers.

They can be represented by their solicitors and would give evidence in person only if the judge decides there should be a full hearing in open court.

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مَكْذَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

Efforts to return stolen gold thwarted by greed, confusion and legal wrangles

Nazi thieves left a wound that will not heal



By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

GOLD has proved to be the most intractable legacy of the Second World War. More than 50 years after Hitler's defeat, governments, refugees and Holocaust victims' families are still waiting for their share of the \$84 million held in British and American banks.

Efforts to trace the missing ingots and return them to their rightful owners have been frustrated by greed, confusion and legal wrangles. But the main problem has been the nature of the metal itself: the jewellery, coins, heirlooms and Jewish sacred objects plundered all over Europe from families imprisoned or exterminated were all sent to a central smithy, melted down and turned into ingots whose provenance can never now be established.

Yesterday the Foreign Office responded to the growing concern over the gold and suspicion that intelligence documents had been held back by releasing a summary of the Government's role in tracing the Nazi gold and the attempt to compensate the victims of Nazi looting.

A 23-page pamphlet, compiled on orders of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, from government archives, makes public the long negotiations, diplomatic arguments and terse exchanges between the Allies. These have now all been made public: most were published 40 years ago.

As the pamphlet makes

tugal and Sweden, and to a lesser extent Spain and Turkey — also received German gold. The Allies tried to monitor the sums to provide evidence of plundering. But the Reichsbank sent out ingots that had been resmelted and backdated to a period before the war.

Banking records confiscated after the war show the elaborate deception. Booty seized by the Wehrmacht was sent directly to the Reich's Treasury; that seized by the SS was handled exclusively through the Reichsbank, where it was received into a holding account in the name of "Melmer" and its value transferred after assessment to an account in the name of "Max Helliger".

Dr Fuhr, of the Reichsbank, admitted under interrogation in 1945 that all gold was resmelted to conceal its origins; much was sent abroad. Britain estimated that by March 1943 Germany had sold more gold than it had held in 1939.

Britain and America were unsure how to put pressure on the Swiss not to accept the gold. Switzerland, entirely surrounded by the Axis powers, could not be coerced. Any outright embargo on Switzerland would also prevent the Allies from obtaining the Swiss francs they needed. Instead Britain and America issued in January 1943 a declaration in which they reserved their rights "to declare invalid any transfers of, or dealings with, property, rights and interests... which are, or have been, situated in the territories which have come under the occupation or control, direct or indirect, of the Governments with which they are at war."

The warning was political: the Treasury had doubts. The Bank of England thought it would simply drive the Germans into more elaborate deceptions to conceal their looting of Europe. But the Government decided that the neutrals must be bluntly told that if they accepted gold from Germany they would be liable to "claims under the terms of the Inter-Allied declaration". The Bank of England also said it would pay no interest or dividends to anyone living in Sweden or Switzerland until those two countries declared that their gold holdings were "free from enemy taint".

The Treasury was reluctant, but Mr Cobbold of the Bank of England told the Swiss embassy in London that he could rely on his country having "the maximum amount of trouble" after the war.

The problem, as the Allies later discovered, was that this was a bluff. The Swiss, realising the way the war was going, belatedly said that they would not accept any gold from anyone in German-occupied territory, and in December 1944 blocked all Hungarian, Slovak and Croatian accounts in Switzerland. But the end of hostilities revealed the allied weakness: they had no legal way to compel the Swiss to hand over the gold.

With all the other neutral states, the Swiss claimed that such a demand violated their



Gold bullion in the Bank of England at the end of the war, when ingots were being shipped from Germany

neutral status. They agreed, after being urged on moral grounds, to begin talks. The Americans said they held \$200 million worth of Nazi gold. At first they denied all knowledge, but when talks became heated Mr A. Hirs, their chief negotiator, let slip that Swiss banks had \$500 million worth.

Finally in May 1946, they agreed to a one-off payment of 250 million Swiss francs in gold to the Federal Reserve Bank in New York. The Allies, angry but impatient, decided this was the best deal on offer and waived all further claims against the Swiss. The Swiss later made a further ex-gratia payment of 121.5 million Swiss francs. But they kept, in the end, about seven eighths of all the German gold deposited.

The New York sum formed the basis of the allied Tripartite Gold Commission. The hunt was also on for gold hidden in Germany. The occupation forces found a hoard of about £54 million worth in a salt mine in Merkers, but reckoned it was only a fifth of all German gold. The Americans found several other hoards in their zone, and an informant also revealed a cache amassed by von Ribbentrop, the Nazi Foreign Minister, which was guarded by the German Foreign Office.

All the gold was gathered together in Frankfurt then sent to London and New York for safekeeping pending distribution. The problem then was to decide how to give it back. Britain argued that all rightful

owners should get back their goods, but most of the gold had been melted down and was untraceable. Instead, the Americans suggested it should be distributed in proportion to the claims by those countries that had lost gold. This formula was accepted: payment would be compensation rather than restitution.

Dozens of obstacles have held up payment. The main one is that the sums claimed far exceed the gold found: the Bank of England estimated in 1945 that just over half the amount was available. The other problem has been individual restitution, especially to the relatives of families killed in the war.

The other main difficulty has been calculating the value of what remains. The prices were all worked out in exchange rates of 1945 and 1947. Distribution has also been complicated by the issue of Albanian gold. This entirely extraneous question arose after Britain, which held gold in trust, refused to return it until the Albanians offered compensation for a British warship sunk in 1946.

That issue dragged on for more than 40 years; an agreement was reached only five years ago, and it was only last week that the Albanian parliament ratified the deal. For the first time since 1945, the way is now open to pay the Nazis' victims compensation for some of what they lost.

Leading article, page 19
DAILY MAIL

Experts to scrutinise secret dealings

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

SWITZERLAND was urged yesterday to publish a full record of its wartime financial dealings with the Nazi regime, after Britain said the Swiss may have turned over only part of the gold they acknowledged buying from the Germans.

Officials said the British and Swiss Foreign Ministers were likely to discuss the matter in Switzerland next week. Legislation is being prepared in Geneva to allow a commission of experts to take an unblinded look at Swiss financial dealings with the Nazis, regardless of banking secrecy laws.

The Swiss Foreign Ministry said the inquiry, which would have to be approved by parliament, would examine all the dealings of private and public financial institutions with Germany after 1933.

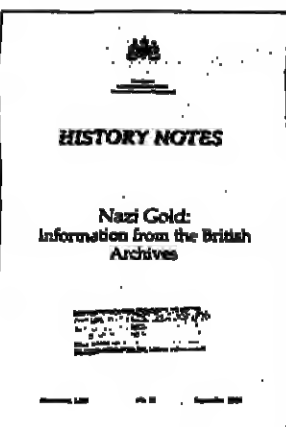
The Foreign Office did not confirm claims by Jewish groups that a secret deal was struck between the neutral Swiss and America, Britain, France and Russia. However, it said there was speculation over the amounts involved. There was some confusion over the exact figures because of fluctuations in exchange rates, gold prices and inflation over 50 years.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has begun an internal inquiry into allegations that several of its delegates collaborated with the Nazis. The World Jewish Congress and the American Senate Banking Committee have given the organisation the names of about 30 suspected collaborators drawn from American archives.

The ICRC said that ten had been identified as working for the International Red Cross and six others worked for national Red Cross societies in occupied Europe.

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HISTORY NOTES

Nazi Gold:
Information from the British
ArchivesYesterday's report from
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clear, two main difficulties, both during and after the war, have haunted all efforts to reach a just settlement: how to prevent the Germans sending their ill-gotten loot abroad — principally to Switzerland; and how to persuade the neutral countries that received tons of smelted gold from Germany to pay the money back after 1945.

Allied monitoring of Nazi gold deals began before the war. By September 1939, German holdings had swollen by some \$97 million worth of gold from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Danzig. The Reichsbank maintained that it had reserves in 1939 to be \$71 million, the same figure as in 1937; the Bank of England considered the true figure to be nearer \$111 million.

But the war proved costly for Germany. Reserves were depleted as Germany had defaulted on loans, exhausted its credit and almost all trade had to be on a barter basis. The war could be financed only by systematic plunder — of state treasures, especially \$223 million of Belgian gold, \$193 million from Holland and \$24 million from Hungary, and of personal assets, particularly those of the Jews. Britain estimated in 1945 that Germany had plundered \$550 million — almost certainly an underestimate.

Germany used its gold to buy raw materials and vital foreign currency. The main route was via Switzerland, but other neutral countries — Por-



US officials inspecting 100 tons of Nazi gold captured in 1945. Much of it came from jewellery, coins and Jewish sacred objects plundered all over Europe

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مَكْنَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ

British Association: scientists' research casts fresh light on mysteries ancient and modern

Musical relics cast ancient man as father of the blues

REPORTS BY NIGEL HAWKES AND NICK NUTTALL

EARLY man could play the blues, a study of ancient instruments has suggested.

The musical ancestors of Charlie Parker played flutes made from the bones of large birds, such as vultures. The flutes were simple instruments, examples of which have been found in caves dating from up to 24,000 years ago.

In some relics the positioning of the drilled holes and the worn patches of bone caused by fingering techniques are evidence that the players could "bend" notes as skilfully as a modern jazz performer, giving their music colour and emotion.

Flutes of this type were still being used in Roman and Anglo-Saxon times and large numbers of them, often made from the shin-bones of sheep, have been found in archaeological sites. Replicas moulded from plastic reveal a range of tunings, the British Association meeting in Birmingham was told yesterday.

Graeme Lawson, of the Music-Archaeological Survey in Cambridge, said that some of the bone instruments showed signs of having been extensively used and cher-

ished. There was evidence of the use of musical intervals roughly corresponding to today's tones and semitones. But the instruments were different in having nuances of pitch to provide colour to the scales. Did the earliest "blues" tunings, he asked, or were they simply evidence of clumsy construction?

The signs were that they were deliberate. The distances between the finger holes on different instruments were rarely uniform and in some cases scratched markers suggested careful laying-out, based on calculation or the application of some rule of thumb. The undercutting of the finger-holes after drilling showed evidence of still finer adjustment. "Clearly, simple though these instruments seem, they are embodiments of very special musical requirements and complex cultural systems," he said.

The research programme now aims to study the oldest instruments, comparing them with the more recent Roman and Anglo-Saxon pipes. From traces of the surface taken by scanning electron microscopes, the researchers hope to

learn more about the fingering techniques used by pipers 24,000 years ago.

The familiar tuning of modern instruments was developed to bring order to what was seen as musical chaos. But instruments from the Stone Age up to Roman and medieval times revealed a freer musical taste. The early musicians would have made their own instruments, tuning them by drilling holes in the correct places and making them bigger or smaller.

Dr Lawson, who demonstrated how to play a flute made from sheep bone, said: "It looks like it was a preference. Certainly in the Anglo-Saxon and Roman period when we looked at the instruments closely not only have the finger holes been drilled with the point of a knife, but they have been drilled in accordance with markers put on the surface of the bone beforehand. Some of the holes are undercut. They have clearly been trying to adjust them to hit a pattern they had in mind."

Close examination of the hole rims showed areas that were polished, suggesting sliding with the fingertips.



Graeme Lawson with prehistoric and medieval flutes made from animal bone

Scan may read coma victims' thoughts

SCIENTISTS believe it may be possible to communicate with coma victims by reading their minds.

Dr Stephen Roberts of Imperial College, London, told the British Association that in healthy people, tiny electrical signals in the brain can be detected by a grid of electrical contacts over the head. The signals appear if the volunteers move their fingers but also if they merely think of moving their fingers.

Dr Roberts hopes the same will be true of patients in a deep coma. Several who have returned to consciousness have reported that they could understand what people were saying but were unable to respond.

In trials at the Royal Hospital for Disability in Putney, west London, next year, he will ask comatose patients to think of moving either their right or left index fingers. Brain signals will be analysed in a "neural net" computer.

Over some 100 tests, it should be possible to determine whether a patient can understand the instructions, and even to conduct a simple conversation in which yes and no are linked to moving the right or left index fingers.

Dr Roberts hopes that the technique may enable people with total paralysis to control wheelchairs or computers.

Motorway travel made easy

Motorways in the year 2020 might be like computerised conveyor belts, the chairman and chief executive of Jaguar said. Vehicles would lock into tracks planted in roads and cruise at constant speeds at set distances apart. Nick Scheele told the festival.

With such stress-free driving, collision guidance systems using short-range radar would help to reduce accidents although drivers would have to stay alert should dashboard computers fail or the unforeseen happen.

Early man 'no slouch'

Early man walked upright, according to Dr Robin Crompton of Liverpool University. He and colleagues used a computer simulation to prove that our ancestors never stooped with knuckles grazing the ground. This would have used too much energy and overheated the body, he said.

A computer model based on a fossil hominid found in Ethiopia simulated the skeleton walking in a slouch. It fell over repeatedly.

Maths slide 'continues'

The introduction of the national curriculum has failed to halt the decline in mathematics or reading in primary schools, Professor Robert Campbell of Warwick University said. But he denied that there was a crisis in reading, as some have claimed.

He said the overall evidence suggested that teaching was "at least moderately effective in around 80 per cent of schools, with some serious problems of teaching in a small minority".

Aliens, night flights and things that go bump are all in the mind



Blackmore said sleep paralysis was to blame

MORE THAN a million Britons believe that they have been abducted by aliens and taken on rides across space and time, and more than half the population has woken from sleep to sense a strange presence in the room, a British psychologist claimed yesterday.

Dr Sue Blackmore said these and scores of so-called paranormal experiences — including out-of-body sensations and the sighting of ghosts — can be explained as unusual electrical activity in key parts of the brain.

"My research shows that these are really common experiences. Those doctors who say that they are a symptom that someone is ill are wrong: they are actually ordinary experiences. People who have them

need reassurance, not drugs," said Dr Blackmore, who is based at the University of the West of England.

A survey carried out in Bristol of about 200 adults and 130 children found that many had had strange experiences at least once. Some 33 per cent of children claimed they had seen a ghost while only 12 per cent of adults said they had seen one. Out-of-body experiences, in which people believe they are flying over their body and floating across rooms, streets or fields, were cited by a third of those interviewed.

Waking up to feel a presence, normally described as an evil one, in the room has happened to 56 per cent of children and 68 per cent of adults. False awakenings, in which someone believes they have woken

up but is really still dreaming, is an experience reportedly shared by 57 per cent of children and 82 per cent of adults.

About 2 per cent of the population believe they have been abducted by aliens and Dr Blackmore said she believes they are suffering from a phenomenon known as sleep paralysis. When people dream, their bodies become temporarily paralysed, preventing them acting out their dreams and endangering themselves. Her research has found that about 45 per cent of people become paralysed before they fall asleep or when they wake up at least once in their lives. "Normally you know nothing about sleep paralysis. However, occasionally something goes wrong with the mechanism, for

example if you are very tired, overworked, excited or worried," Dr Blackmore said.

The researcher has gathered more than 100 cases of the phenomenon which confirm her suspicions that "alien abductions" are linked with this kind of paralysis. "There are certain features that come up again and again. There are strange whining noises. One described loud screaming and high-pitched laughter and another said she had experienced a roaring noise in her head," Dr Blackmore told the British Association.

Many report feeling vibrations and "shakings and judderings" and others talk of figures at the foot of the bed. There are pressing sensations like alien hands holding the

sleep-paralysed person's fingers or forcing themselves on to their body.

Dr Blackmore, who is set to carry out laboratory tests, is convinced that electrical firings of different parts of the brain and a combination of sleep paralysis in many cases is the key to scores of supernatural experiences. "It is known that sense of presence can be created by stimulating the temporal lobes of the brain. Stimulating the temporal lobe with electrodes can give rise to out-of-body experiences and mystical experiences," she said.

Dr Blackmore said some people had more active or unstable temporal lobes than others. This had been linked with artistic talent.

Leading article, page 19

Telepathy 'more widespread than is thought'

MOST people may have some psychic or telepathic ability, a leading researcher into the paranormal said at the festival yesterday. Experiments across the world had found evidence that appeared to show that people were aware of facts which they could not have found out through normal perception.

Dr Deborah Delaney, of Edinburgh

University's psychology department, admitted there were phenomena that scientists could not yet explain and should not dismiss out of hand. "We have a group of consistent findings across a large number of studies that are indicating that something that we currently do not understand is going on. We cannot explain it. But that is not

to say we are not dealing with some type of error not yet recognised. If so it could be affecting all our science."

Dr Delaney added that psychic ability might be spread widely but unevenly among the population. "It's like music. There would be Mozarts and there would be people with virtually no ability. Most of us would be somewhere in between."

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

Your chance to question Tony Blair



READERS are invited to a forum where Tony Blair, the leader of the Labour Party since July 1994, will set out his political vision and priorities for a new Britain. The audience will have the opportunity to question Mr Blair's views on a raft of policy areas, from taxation to the minimum wage, the National Health Service to education. Chaired by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, the forum marks the publication of Mr Blair's book, *New Britain — My Vision of a Young Country* (Fourth Estate, £8.99), and will be at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday, September 19 at 7.30pm. Tickets at £10 (£7.50 concessions) include £2 off the price of Mr Blair's book and are available by telephoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon with your remittance to Dillons the Bookstore, 32 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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Know the right way to put your baby to sleep



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

BEAN bags filled with polystyrene balls were once props without which no university student's room was complete. Twenty years ago they symbolised freedom from parents and their traditional furniture.

More recently, it is the family dog that seems to have monopolised the bean bag and the generation who once sat and slept on the bags are now parents themselves. All parents should heed the warning in a report in the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, and which is also being carried in Britain by the magazine *General Practitioner*.

American researchers have studied 35 cases of babies who died after being put to sleep on a bean bag. All were found face down on the bag at the time of death. Half the children were less than two months old and in most cases, after a post-mortem examination, the cause of death was given as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Even without the additional evidence, it has been accepted since 1992 that bean bags are dangerous to children and they have been banned in America. It was found that many children choked to death on the polystyrene balls.

No child should be allowed to sleep on a bean bag in any posture but the research has

underlined how important it is to place children on their backs when they go to sleep. The Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths said its new studies had confirmed the reduction of deaths when babies were placed on their backs in their cots — not face down or even on their sides.

Recent research has again demonstrated the increase in Sudden Infant Death Syndrome when mothers had smoked in pregnancy or when parents continued to smoke after the birth of their child.

The foundation says the temperature of a baby's room is of importance, and recommends that it be kept at between 18C and 21C.

New research has led experts to suggest that when babies are put to bed they should have their cots made up so that their feet touch the foot of the cot. A bed made in this way prevents the children from snuggling under the covers.

When babies' beds are made in such a way that their heads are against the top end, as is more usually the case, they can snuggle down but that can be dangerous.

In several recent cases, babies who have died suddenly have been found with their blankets over their heads and are thought to have become overheated. This can cause sudden infant death.

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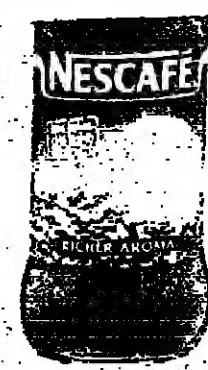
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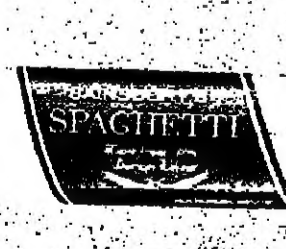


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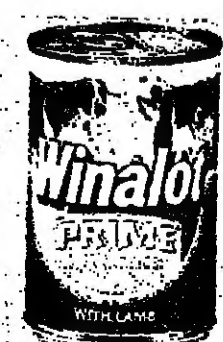
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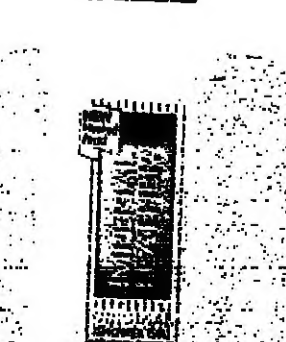
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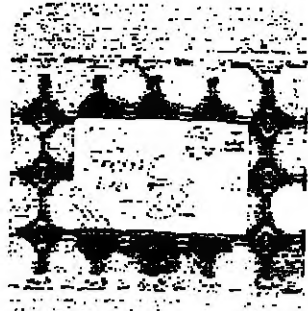
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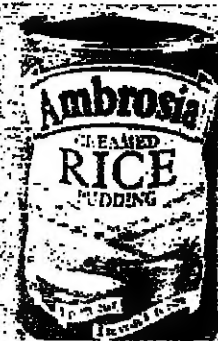
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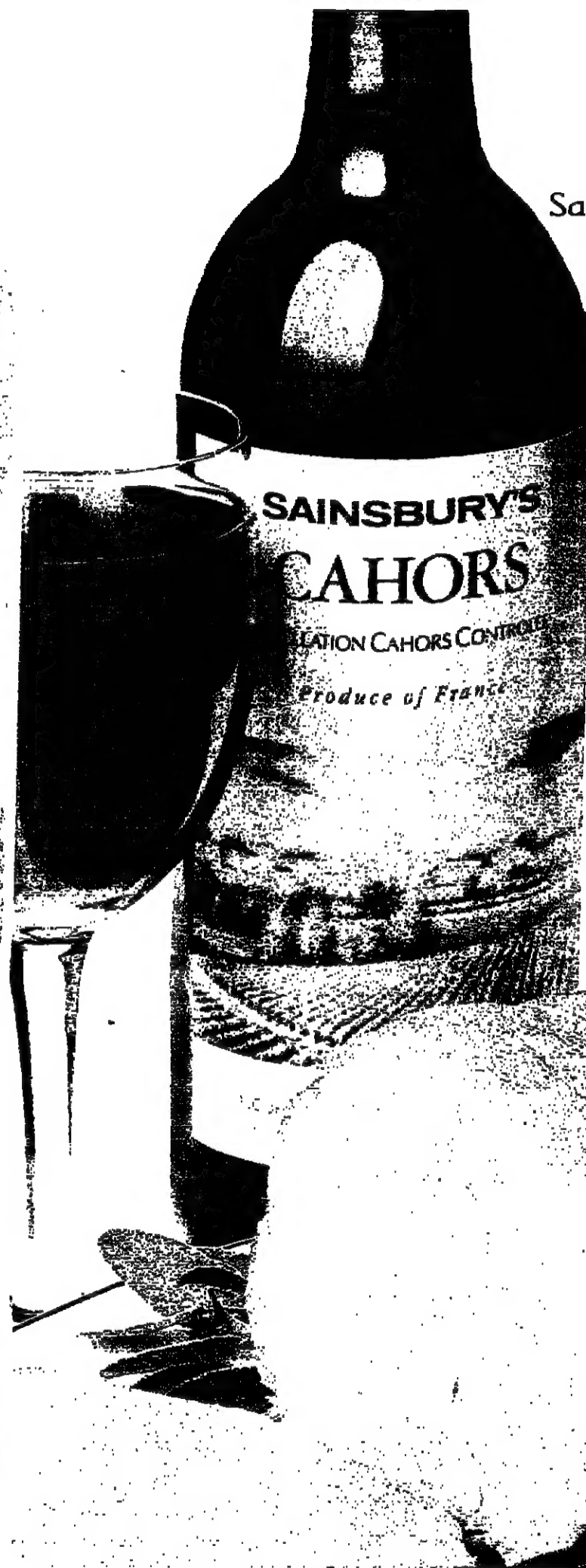
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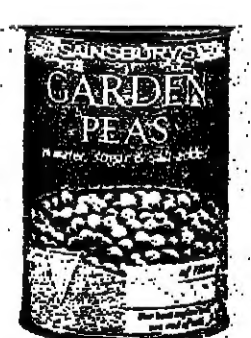
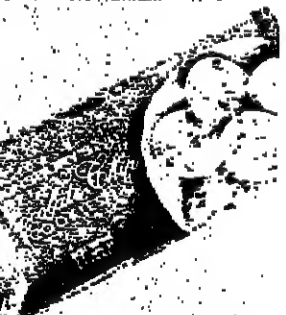
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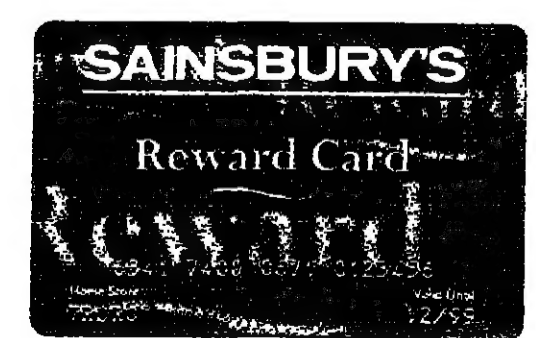


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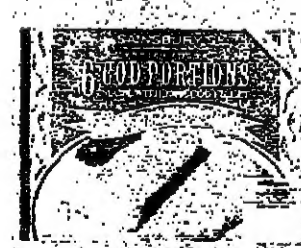
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Police guard five Republicans who bought Protestant's business from bank

Loyalists threaten revenge for farmer's eviction

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALIST terrorists have threatened to kill a group of Irish businessmen who bought a large farm in the Irish Republic from a Protestant family who had been evicted from the land.

Irish police have provided tight security for five members of the board of Donegal Creameries after they had been contacted by a terrorist from the Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF) who said that the eviction in Co Donegal was sectarian. The UFF also threatened to kill security men and a Dublin accountant who had been involved in the eviction of Eric Graham and his family from their 3,000-acre estate near Burnfoot last month.

The UFF leadership is understood to have dissociated itself from the threat, which was issued by the organisation's north Antrim and Londonderry brigades. There are now fears that the move by one of the UFF's most brutal

groups, which murdered seven people in a gun attack on a Co Londonderry bar in 1993, could mark a widening of the feud among loyalists.

The terrorists acted last week, a fortnight after the Grahams had been evicted by bailiffs wearing balaclavas and carrying sledgehammers. The family bought the farm for £3 million in 1989, but stopped making mortgage payments to the National Irish Bank in 1992 after a series of disagreements over a £2.3 million loan. The receivers were called in four months later and an eviction order granted by the High Court in Dublin.

Last week Donegal Creameries, which is a co-operative, bought the farm from the National Irish Bank for £3.7 million. The company said it moved quickly to ensure that the farm's 413,000-gallon milk quota would remain in Co Donegal. John Keon, managing director of Donegal Creameries, who received the first death threat in an anonymous telephone call on Friday, said he was astonished by claims that the purchase of the farm was an attempt to "land-grab" from Protestants. Mr Keon is a Roman Catholic, but the four other board members who have received threats are Protestants.

He said: "We have a multi-denominational board and until now we have never paid attention to whether anyone is a Protestant or a Catholic. My impression is that the UFF may have been given an inadequate version of events."

Mr Graham, who ran the farm with his brother and father, dissociated his family from the threats and said he had no connection with loyalist paramilitaries. "I know there are people who felt that Donegal Creameries were land-grabbing from members of the minority community in Donegal when they bought the farm," he said. "But we have no control over what extreme elements can do."

The UFF said it issued the threat after coming under intense pressure to help Protestant farmers in Burnfoot, which is a few miles from the border. A spokesman said: "The feeling up here is very, very strong. Nobody has done anything for the Grahams or



Keon: under police guard



Graham: evicted by bank

As masked bailiffs move in on Eric Graham's farm, top, the Rev Rodney Sterritt carries one of his son-in-law's children from her home



the Protestant farmers. The perception is that an entire Protestant community is being persecuted."

Donegal is one of the three Ulster counties which was not included in Northern Ireland when the country was partitioned in the 1920s. The county has a sizeable Protestant population, most of whom have integrated well into the Republic. However, some feel

isolated and echo the thoughts of an Ulster landlord who said in 1920 that the Protestants of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan were thrown to the wolves when Ireland was partitioned.

The British and Irish Governments will decide today whether to expel the fringe loyalist parties from multiparty talks in Northern Ireland after recent death threats

against two militant loyalists by the Protestant paramilitary leadership.

The Democratic Unionists called for the Progressive Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party, the political wings of the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Ulster Defence Association, to be expelled after they refused to condemn the death threats. The DUP claimed that the loyalist parties

had breached the Mitchell principles on non-violence, to which all participants at the Stormont talks had signed up, by not condemning the loyalist paramilitary death threat against Portadown loyalist Billy Wright.

In a joint paper presented to a full session of the talks yesterday, the DUP and the DUP said that they subscribed to the Mitchell principles. They added that they resolutely opposed the use or threat of violence from whatever source.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police left with bill for convict's dog

A police authority has had to pay a £2,600 kennel bill for a convict's dog. The dog went to an animal shelter near Gloucester in 1993 when the man was arrested and subsequently jailed. On his release last year he collected his dog and told the shelter to send the bill to his new home but never paid. He has since been rearrested and jailed. Gloucestershire Police Authority has been told it is likely because its constabulary made the initial contract.

Lady Tryon better

Lady Tryon, 48, a friend of the Prince of Wales, is recovering so well after breaking her back in a fall from a hospital window in May that she is now visiting the family home near Salisbury. Specialists have ruled out the risk of permanent brain damage.

Crash closes M25

A tanker disrupted traffic on the M25 near Reigate when it hit roadworks near junction 7, overturning and spilling its load of liquid nitrogen. The motorway was closed in both directions for a time and morning commuters faced tailbacks of up to ten miles.

Royal reprint

Postcard maker J. Arthur Dixon is dropping the letters HRH from its best-selling postcards of Diana, Princess of Wales. Officials at Balmoral ordered the removal of cards carrying the dropped title from the castle's souvenir shop last week.

Priest charged

Father James Channing Pearce, 56, who taught maths and physics at the Jesuit-run Stonyhurst College, near Blackburn, has been charged with indecently assaulting boys at the school. He will appear in court in November on four charges.

Horse attacked

Lady, a 22-year-old shire horse that was a favourite with visitors to Elvaston Castle Country Park in Derbyshire, died after its genitals were slashed with a knife. The horse was rescued from ill-treatment eight years ago.

Back condition

A judge granted a back-pain sufferer bail at Southwark Crown Court on condition that he went to bed for a week so he could be tried sitting rather than lying. Graham Peacock, 51, denies conspiring to produce cannabis.

Kittiwake deaths

Hundreds of dead kittiwakes have been found along the Tyne-side coastline. Scientists believe a bacterial infection could be responsible and that thousands more of the gulls, which come ashore only to nest, may have perished.

Galling loss

Karen Parker, 29, is appealing for the return of three gallstones which she had removed last week. They were in a jar in her car which was stolen in Aspley, Nottingham. The car was later recovered but the jar is missing.

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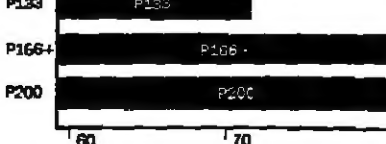
PC Advisor Magazine August 96



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Ticket prices tumble as new rail firms take a tough line

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

PRICE wars are breaking out on railways as new companies take over former British Rail routes and cheap fares are used to tempt travellers.

The most cut-throat competition so far appears to be between Network SouthCentral, now owned by the French utility CGE, and its rival Gatwick Express, now owned by the National Express coach group. One advertisement hits at higher prices and lack of night services on the Gatwick Express. In response, Gatwick Express plans a 24-hour service and is issuing a book of ten tickets offering special group travel

discounts. More tempting deals for passengers are expected. Nine of the proposed 25 rail franchises have been awarded and another four companies are expected to get the go-ahead this month. New companies have targeted specific routes because, unlike British Rail, they are not responsible for a national network.

Chiltern Railways is promoting a £20 day-return fare between London and Birmingham. The journey takes 40 minutes longer than that on InterCity West Coast, its rival line, and uses less familiar stations such as Marylebone

in London and Snow Hill in Birmingham. The £20 day return and the £23 monthly return were on offer when Chiltern was part of BR, but there was little marketing budget available or corporate will to publicise specific deals.

West Coast and East Coast InterCity have entered into direct competition with EasyJet, the cut-price air company which offers a £29 single fare between Scotland and Luton airport. The rail companies have responded by introducing a £29 Scotland-to-London return, knocking £5 off the cheapest return previously available.

Courts 'too hard on children'

By FRANCES GIBB

CHILDREN who go to court as victims or witnesses are often treated so badly that prosecutions fail, according to a report published yesterday. The children often have to wait hours or even days before giving evidence and receive little preparation for the court experience, says the report by Victim Support, the charity for victims of crime.

The report, based on the experiences of 1,000 children in 26 Crown Courts, found children are not always allowed to give evidence by closed-circuit TV. An 11-year-old girl became incoherent when she found she had to give evidence in open court. The case was dismissed.

A special Child Witness Pack published with the backing of the Lord Chancellor's Department three years ago was used for only 25 per cent of children.

Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, called for national guidelines on preparation, reducing waiting times to a minimum and allowing children to wait at home.

The Princess Royal, patron of Victim Support, who was at the launch of the report, welcomed the findings.

£376,000 for teacher in car crash

By JOHN O'LEARY

A TEACHER who sustained multiple injuries in a car crash while taking pupils on an A-level study visit has won record damages of £376,000. John Calvert, a history teacher at Knottingsley High School, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was a passenger in a colleague's car that had been pressed into service for a study trip because the school minibus had failed a safety check. He is wheelchair-bound as a result of the collision near York and has never returned to work.

The National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers took up his case when it emerged that the driver of the other car was uninsured. The award is thought to be the biggest secured by a teachers' organisation.

The ill-fated visit took place in 1989 but it took until this year to reach a settlement. The car carrying three sixth-form girls and another teacher was wrecked. The driver and pupils had minor injuries but it took two hours to free Mr Calvert from the car. Both feet and legs were broken. He later took early retirement.

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Insurance Services

Spanish trawlermen's lawyer told: 'You never know, a new government might pay up'

Judge delays £80m fish quota case until after election

By Stephen Farrell

A CLAIM by Spanish fishermen for £80 million compensation from the Government for stopping them fishing in British waters was delayed yesterday until after the general election.

Department of Transport lawyers asked the High Court for five months to produce hundreds of files from six departments, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Scottish, Welsh and Cabinet offices. They also wanted time for ministers and civil servants to consider public interest immunity certificates and legal and professional privilege.

Lawyers for 94 Spanish boats claimed that the cost to taxpayers could total £200 million in damages and interest if the courts added exemplary damages for breaking European law.

The test case arises from the 1988 Merchant Shipping Act, which stopped Spanish-owned boats registered in Britain from working after British fishermen's claims of "quota-



Gonzalez, confident of a Spanish victory

hopping". But in 1991 the European Court of Justice ruled that the Act was illegal and discriminatory.

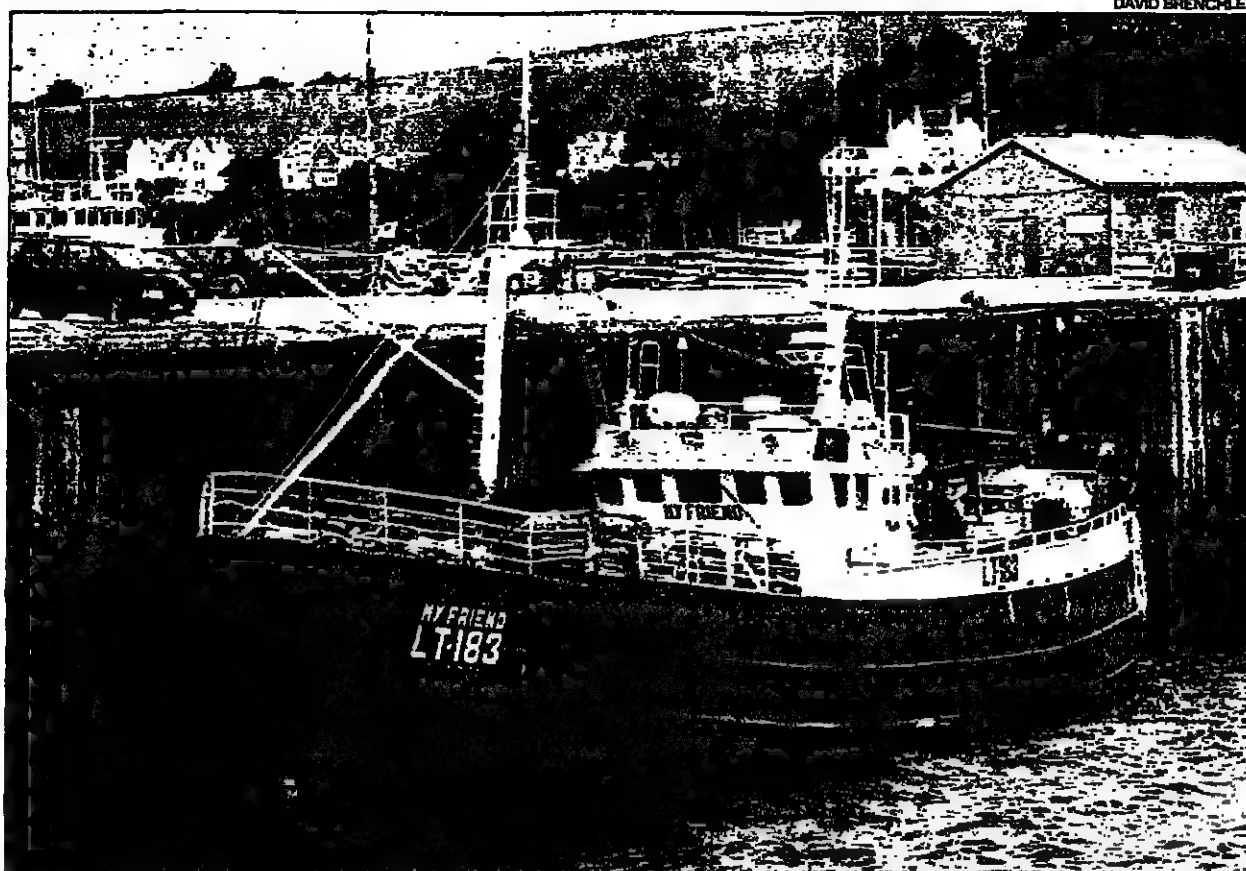
At a preliminary hearing yesterday, Mr Justice Collins ruled that the case could not be heard until June, after the election. "If there is upheaval the relevant parties may have other things on their minds at the crucial times," he said. He also reminded David

Vaughan, QC, counsel for the fishermen, that a new administration might decide not to fight the claim. "You may find you do not need to pursue any proceedings if there is a change of government — you never know."

Stephen Swabey, the fishermen's solicitor, said after the hearing: "We are very disappointed that the Government cannot work faster to produce documents that have already been identified, but they convinced the judge, who has a lot of experience in this area."

Antonio Gonzalez, 43, a Spanish fishing vessel manager from Burela in Galicia, who has been based in Milford Haven for six years, is confident that the owners will win. Señor Gonzalez estimates that he lost £2 million when his four boats were prevented from operating for 18 months between April 1989 and November 1990.

"The European Court of Justice decided this matter and we abide by the law," he said. "If there is a law, that law applies to everybody. Our vessels were registered here in



The Spanish-owned trawler *My Friend* in Falmouth harbour yesterday. As a flag-of-convenience boat it has to be up in a British port for eight hours eight times every year to qualify for a British fishing licence

1981 and we have the same rights as any British vessels."

Tony Baldry, the Fisheries Minister, promised to fight the fishermen's claims and push for EU treaty changes to end the "crazy situation" that permits quota-hopping.

But Gavin Strang, the Shadow

Agriculture Minister, accused the Government of failing to represent Britain's trawlermen. "The Government should now be working urgently in Europe to make allies of other members states who are keen to ensure that their national quota is protected from quota-hopping," he said.

Mike Townsend, Chief Executive of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said yesterday: "I am browned off and thoroughly fed up with the whole thing. All we want is the Government to come out of the Common Fisheries Policy."

Trevor Hawken, a Newlyn trawlerman, said: "The system stinks, so why shouldn't the Spanish milk a little bit more? They have been doing it for years. The EC is killing off the British fishing industry."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gang sold £4.5m haul for £1,000

A gang stole aviation equipment worth £4.5 million and sold it for £1,000 as scrap. Portsmouth Crown Court was told yesterday. A quarter of the workforce of 360 at the aviation company raided in May was idle for a month while the company sought replacement equipment. Thomas Hodgkins, 28, paid £140 for his part in the break-in, was sent to a young offenders' institution for 15 months.

£5m flood relief

A £5.4 million flood relief scheme for Chichester, West Sussex, was announced by the Environment Agency. A new flood channel from the River Lavant will be cut. In the winter of 1993-94 flooding caused £6 million of damage.

Walkers found

Two teachers missing for two days while hill-walking were found on Merrick, a 2,770ft mountain in Dumfries and Galloway, Marion Watson, 53, and Charles Milligan, 47, both from Ardrossan, Strathclyde, said they had been lost.

Baby charge

Emma Gifford, 21, from Ashford, Kent, daughter of Michael Gifford, former chief executive of the Rank Organisation, has been charged with concealing the birth of a baby whose body was allegedly found in a freezer.

Pilot arrested

A pilot whose plane crashed in a field in Romford, east London, has been arrested on suspicion of drug smuggling. Police said 1 kg of white powder was found on board the light aircraft, which had run out of fuel.

Art brush-off

A chalk pavement drawing in Carlisle, commissioned by the council for an arts festival, was swept away by a street cleaner after passers-by complained of graffiti. Artist Timothy Appleby had spent two hours on the drawing.

Tories jostle for seat on Tunbridge Wells bus to Westminster

By James Landale

THE Kent town of Tunbridge Wells will be the scene of a furious contest next week between Tory MPs, councillors and business leaders for the latest chance to land a seat in Parliament.

More than 180 people applied for the seat when Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary and sitting MP, announced two months ago that he would be standing down at the next election. Although Tunbridge Wells's majority of 17,132 has been weakened by boundary changes, the seat remains a relatively secure passage to Westminster. According to electoral analysis, the

selected Tory candidate would win a majority of about 13,000 if people voted roughly as they did in 1992.

The Tory association has whittled the applicants down to 21 who will be interviewed over the next week. A shortlist of three will be put before a meeting of all party members on September 19. After speeches and questions, a ballot will be held.

Those still in the running include Alan Clark, 68, the diarist and former minister who has long regretted standing down at the last election, and Dame Janet Fookes, a Deputy Speaker at the House of Commons. Two other so-called "retread" MPs who have been deselected from their seats — Hartley Booth at Finchley

and Michael Stephen at Shoreham — have failed to make the shortlist.

Others with a better chance include David Campbell-Bannerman, special adviser to Sir Patrick. Not only does Mr Campbell-Bannerman, 36, have a strong political pedigree — his great-great-uncle was Prime Minister from 1905 to 1908 — but he also grew up in the area. Another key contender is Alex King, chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Conservative Association.

Also trying for the seat are Archie Norman, the chief executive and future chairman of the Asda supermarket chain, Paul Twyman, a director of the Nationwide Building Society, and David Skidmore, a

consultant surgeon who was made an OBE for helping people out of the Grand Hotel in Brighton when it was bombed by the IRA at the Tory party conference in 1984.

Tunbridge Wells has attracted many Tory MPs whose seats have disappeared or become marginal after boundary changes. Dame Janet's Plymouth Drake seat, renamed Plymouth Sutton, now includes Labour-supporting town wards. Michael Stephen's Shoreham constituency was split in three by the Boundary Commission and he failed to be selected for any of them.

Tunbridge Wells Tories must decide whether they want a young, dynamic candidate who will be able

to spend more time in the constituency than Sir Patrick, or a more mature candidate who will not indulge in too much anti-European, right-wing rhetoric. After Tunbridge Wells has selected, there will be few other chances for a seat. John Carlisle announced this week that he would stand down from Luton North at the election, but the seat is far from safe. □ The Tories need a candidate for Tottenham after prospective contender Henrietta Royle was headhunted by an investment agency. She has been appointed chief executive of CeeNet, the Corporation of London's emerging investment agency. The Labour MP Bernie Grant holds the seat with an 11,968 majority.



Dame Janet: still in the running for seat



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Spy-watchers in Australia scrap over story of historian's Order of Lenin

BY DAVID BENTLEY

FIVE years after his death, Australia's most eminent historian is being demonised as a traitor, after allegations by a Brisbane newspaper, *The Courier-Mail*, that he wore the Order of Lenin.

Professor Manning Clark, who wrote *A History of Australia* and was named Australian of the Year in 1981, may have used his position to spread communist propaganda. The newspaper devoted eight broadsheet pages to his socialist credentials, citing Australian Security Intelligence Organisation files supporting the view that Clark was "communistically inclined".

Not everyone is convinced. His son, Andrew, who edits *The Sun-*

Herald in Sydney, told readers: "These claims are fabrications. They are based on malicious title-tattle."

Central to the controversy is Les Murray, a poet who allegedly saw Clark wearing the Soviet Union's highest honour at a dinner party. The story reached Peter Kelly, a retired journalist, who recalled a previous conversation in the Seventies with Geoffrey Fairbairn, a Canberra academic who had been upset by seeing Clark at the Soviet Embassy, apparently wearing the same medal.

Kelly, former press secretary to the Liberal politician William McMahon in the Sixties, held his silence for a quarter of a century out of consideration, he says, for Clark's family.

When a Melbourne academic, Stuart McIntyre, delivered the inaugural Manning Clark Memorial Lecture, "Who are The True Believers?" in 1994, Kelly decided that Clark had been canonised by the Australian Labor Party and blew the whistle.

Clark's followers were outraged and articles for and against him appeared in the press, questioning the authenticity of the insignia. A KGB double agent also stepped into the fray.

John Howard, the Prime Minister, said he disagreed with Clark's "black armband" approach to the past. Opposition leader Kim Beazley dismissed the claims as "oddball".

David Marr of *The Sydney Morning Herald* attacked *The Cou-*

rier-Mail's exposé as "evil guess-work" and "one of the greatest axe jobs in the history of Australian journalism". Bill Hayden, the former Governor-General, saw it as a piece of "outrageous self-indulgence".

For Professor Claudio Veliz, emeritus professor of sociology at Melbourne's La Trobe University, whose criticism of Clark's approach to history caused a stir in 1982, the allegations supported what he had been saying all along.

"What is really amiss about Clark, I suspect, is that deep within he did not like Australia and thought Australians a melancholy, bawling lot, but could not bring himself to say so." Meanwhile, the contentious medal is nowhere to be found.

Clark's widow, Dymphna, recalls her husband receiving a Soviet decoration when he visited Moscow in 1970 to deliver a lecture on Captain Cook. She does not think it was the Order of Lenin "or there would have been some hoo-ha". Another poet, Geoffrey Dutton, remembers Clark's Soviet medal as a commemorative gift that looked nothing like the Order of Lenin and was worn by the historian only as a joke.

Mr Murray, the only living witness to the wearing of the "gong", told *The Courier-Mail*: "Manning Clark himself drew attention to the medal by telling me that it was the Order of Lenin he was wearing. He said it was not what the students wear, it is the real thing."



Clark, who died five years ago, has been called a traitor

Shop ban on album over gun sale lyric

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

SHERYL CROW, the husky singer who rose to stardom with a song called *All I Wanna Do*, has so offended America's largest supermarket chain that it is refusing to sell her latest album.

The quarrel is over one of Ms Crow's lyrics, which says that Wal-Mart, which has 2,265 branches, sells guns to children. As she sings in *Love Is a Good Thing*: "Watch out sister, watch out brother, watch our children as they kill each other, with a gun they bought at the Wal-Mart discount stores".

Wal-Mart says it is boycotting the album for ethical reasons rather than self-interest. "Selling a record implying behaviour that is against all we stand for is something we just could not profit from," a spokesman said.

The chain continues to profit from gun sales, however. It stopped selling guns over the counter in 1994, but sells them through mail-order catalogues, which gun-control advocates say is a relatively easy way for youngsters to obtain deadly weapons.

Analysis say Wal-Mart might have sold up to 400,000 copies of the album, but Ms Crow and her label, A&M Records, have not indicated that they will change the offending lyric, which has won them free front-page publicity.

Investigators study sworn statement as Whitewater partner goes to jail

Disgraced Clinton aide denies slur against First Lady

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

DICK MORRIS, President Clinton's disgraced political strategist, has sent congressional investigators a sworn statement denying that he told a prostitute that Hillary Clinton was responsible for improperly requisitioning hundreds of confidential FBI files on Republican officials.

Mr Morris, who resigned after a newspaper disclosed his affair with the prostitute last month, said that an entry in her diary that quoted him as blaming a "paranoid" Mrs Clinton for requisitioning the files was inaccurate.

He said that he had told the prostitute, Sherry Rowlands, only that "everyone thinks it's Hillary". He said that comment was based on a private White House poli. "I have no personal knowledge or information from any source whatsoever as to who was responsible for ordering the FBI files," he added.

The statement to the House committee investigating the files scandal was the first time Mr Morris had admitted either his relationship with Ms Rowlands or discussing White House matters with her during their "pillow talk".

William Clinger, the committee's Republican chairman, had given Mr Morris until Monday night to confirm or deny the remarks attributed to him by Ms Rowlands. His statement was delivered a few hours before that deadline, but it was unclear whether it would satisfy the committee.

Mr Clinger said he would wait to see whether Mr Morris could provide records to support his claim before deciding whether to demand that he, and possibly Ms Rowlands, should give evidence in person before the committee.

Mr Clinger called Mr Morris's statement "just another in a long line of denials of involvement by the President or First Lady" that "does not get us any closer to finding out the truth" about who ordered the files or why. The White House said that there was no genuine evidence to suggest that Mrs Clinton was involved and portrayed Mr Clinger's investigation as an "opposition research operation" for Bob Dole's presidential campaign.

Noting that Ms Rowlands's diary extracts appeared in *Star* magazine, Mike McCurry, the White House press

secretary, said: "I did not know you sought the truth in supermarket tabloids."

In a separate development, Susan McDougal, the Clintons' former Whitewater business partner, spent her first full day in an Arkansas jail yesterday for refusing to give evidence against the President before a federal grand jury.

Ms McDougal had surrendered herself to US marshals on Monday morning and spent more than seven hours in a Little Rock courthouse cell before being moved to Faulkner county jail.

Ms McDougal was sentenced last month to two years in prison for accepting an illegal loan. She refused to tell the grand jury whether Mr Clinton had helped her to obtain that loan, claiming that Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater special prosecutor, was out to destroy the President. Her original prison sentence was due to begin on September 30, but she is now behind bars for contempt of court.

□ Perot's choice: Ross Perot, the Reform Party's presidential candidate, was expected to announce his running-mate on CBS television last night.



Susan McDougal leaves Little Rock courthouse in chains on her way to prison

US coast braced for another hurricane

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

THE great storm bowl of the Caribbean has produced another killer wind with Hurricane Hortense, which yesterday gathered force over the region's warm waters and appeared to be heading for the American mainland.

Hortense, the fourth hurricane this summer, left four people dead in Puerto Rico and yesterday hit the island of Hispaniola, which is shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Ferocious rainstorms gave way to flash floods in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and on Hispaniola's north coast. Storm surges, mudslides and tornados accompanied the main storm.

The Turks and Caicos islands were placed on hurricane alert and in the American Virgin Islands the sale of rum was banned during the bad weather to prevent looting.

Forecasters predicted that the hurricane will gather force tonight and may arrive off Florida on Friday. There is expected to make a sharp right turn towards Georgia and the Carolinas. The coastal towns in those states were devastated last week by Hurricane Fran. Earlier in the season Hurricanes Bertha and Edouard left trails of damage.

An early estimate by the Insurance Information Institute put the damage caused by Fran as high as \$1 billion (£645 million). Federal relief continued to be distributed in the region and floods left low-lying regions, including Washington DC, resembling swamps. Jim Hunt, Governor of North Carolina, said that Fran had been "the worst disaster we have had this century".

□ Peking: Typhoon Sally killed at least 114 people and left 110 missing, many of them fishermen caught at sea, when it slammed into southern China this week, officials said yesterday. (Reuters)

Remains of Perón to be exhumed

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN who has been fighting a lengthy legal battle to prove that she is the illegitimate daughter of Juan Perón, the late Argentine President, won the right yesterday to have his body exhumed from a Buenos Aires cemetery so that DNA tests can be carried out.

Maria Holgado, 62, who bears a striking resemblance to Perón, hopes that the tests will prove that she is the rightful heir to fortunes he is believed to have hidden in secret Swiss bank accounts.

Señora Holgado, who lives in Madrid and is the author of a book called *Perón, My Father*, arrived in Buenos Aires late on Monday night and yesterday received unprecedented permission from a court to exhume the Pres-

ident's remains. He died on July 1, 1974, at the age of 78.

Señora Holgado started her legal battle to prove that her mother, Cecilia Demarchi, had been Perón's mistress when he was married to his first wife, and that she was conceived during that time. She claims to have met Perón and have pictures of herself with him as a child.

"My mother married a man called Eugenio Holgado in 1928 and they had a daughter who died in 1933. Soon after they separated, and it was at that time that my mother met the young Juan Domingo Perón," said Señora Holgado.

Her claim has come as a surprise to most Argentines who had always believed Perón was impotent. Some have branded Señora Hol-

dago a gravedigger, saying she is just after the millions that Perón stashed away during the last years of his disastrous rule.

Perón was first elected President in 1945 with the backing of the military. He was deposed in 1955 and remained in exile until 1973 before he returned to Argentina for another year in office.

He had professed a mixture of populism and fascism, and founded a political movement which seemed to offer more to satisfy aspirations of the working classes than the traditional political elites. But his promise was lost amid authoritarianism, corruption and contempt for democratic freedoms. However, he also attracted a cult following which is still strong today.

Perón's body has been at the centre of controversy before: prior to his burial someone cut off and stole both his hands, presumably for the fingerprints required to access secret bank accounts.

It seems unlikely that the court would have agreed to exhume the body without having substantial reason. Perón's third and last surviving wife, Maria Estela Martinez de Perón, a former dancer, who also lives in Madrid, has put up the most vociferous opposition to the exhumation. She is adamant that her husband was impotent.

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Investigators raid police as scandals widen in Belgium

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIAN investigators yesterday carried out raids in which 23 people, including 11 police officers, were questioned in connection with the Dutoir case, the confessed paedophile murderer. All 23 were released later without charges, but police were examining documents seized in searches of their homes.

The raids around the southern city of Charleroi, including one at police headquarters, were part of an attempt by Michel Bourlet, the prosecutor, to unravel a stolen vehicle trade said to have involved Dutoir and to have been conducted with police complicity. One of the ten arrested in the Dutoir affair, Inspector Georges Zlot, is alleged to have provided vehicles to the child abductor.

Dutoir, 34, is held responsible for the torture and murder of two teenagers and two eight-year-olds. He is alleged to have been at the centre of a paedophile trade with international connections.

A parallel team of investigating judges in nearby Liège questioned Alain van der Biest, a former minister charged on Sunday with the murder in 1991 of André Cools, a former Deputy Prime Minister. The killing has blighted the Belgian political scene for five years. Willy Claes, the former head of Nato, is awaiting trial with three other former ministers in connection with a corruption scandal exposed by the murder investigation.

Mr van der Biest, a flamboyant novelist and literature professor, is alleged to have paid the Italian Mafia to shoot Cools, a senior figure in the French-speaking Socialist Par-

ty and political boss of Liège, in July 1991. Mr van der Biest insists he has been framed.

Coming amid the uproar over the Dutoir case, the sudden arrest of Mr van der Biest and four others over the Cools affair has compounded a crisis of confidence in Belgium's legal and political system. "Every revelation is feeding the revolution," *La Libre Belgique* said. "Belgians are asking what is rotten in the halls of justice."

King Albert II of the Belgians yesterday called for deep reforms to ensure a more effective and humane system of justice. In a move that took him beyond the bounds of his constitutional role, the King said that those involved in criminal investigations "must be encouraged to pursue their efforts to the end."

The remark was aimed at the judicial bungling and alleged obstruction in the Dutoir and Cools inquiries. The King handed Sijlaan de Clercq, the Justice Minister, a "list of observations and questions" about the handling of



Dehaene promised full disclosure of failures

the Dutoir case. With polls showing that 90 per cent of Belgians distrust the legal system, Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, promised on Monday to ensure full disclosure of the authorities' failure to take action earlier in both the Cools and Dutoir cases. "We have to investigate the investigation," Mr Dehaene said.

Prosecutors have so far cited no direct link between the Cools and Dutoir cases. However, a connection is being widely made by the media, as disclosures pour out on alleged cosy relations among politicians, police and criminals, including the Mafia, in the big cities of French-speaking southeast Belgium.

Adding to the sense of connection is the involvement of several judicial and police figures in both cases. Jean-Marc Connerotte, the investigating magistrate in charge of the Dutoir case, was at the centre of a storm two years ago when he was removed from the Cools investigation. Mr Connerotte, who is based in Neuchâtel, wrote to King Albert at the time saying he knew who the murderers were. He had earlier produced evidence that linked Mr van der Biest to the killings.

As a sub-plot in the two affairs, there have been allegations that investigating judges, who usually enjoy a link with one or other of the main Belgian political blocs, failed to pursue their cases with zeal or were removed when they did so. The police superintendent in charge of co-ordinating the Cools investigation since 1992 resigned from the post on Sunday after allegations he had mishandled the case.



Helmut Kohl looks into his briefcase as budget details were announced yesterday. His Government is seeking sizeable spending cuts

Bonn faces four-day battle over austerity budget

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

TO CATCALLS and gibes from the opposition, the German Government unveiled an austerity budget for 1997 which cuts federal spending in an all-out effort to qualify for European monetary union.

Theo Weigel, the Finance Minister, must shepherd the budget through a four-day debate this week and secure a parliamentary vote on sepa-

rate spending cuts on Friday. Although the Government is likely to survive that vote, the budget is giving ample ammunition to the opposition Social Democrats.

The chance that the German economy will miss the Maastricht criteria for monetary union and the sacrifices demanded by the Chancellor spell trouble in Bonn.

"You claim that the budget will meet the Maastricht criteria," thundered the opposition spokeswoman Ingrid Man-

haus-Maier. "Wrong. The situation of the state finances is now truly dramatic."

The 1997 performance of the German economy will determine whether it is fit for European monetary union. Should it fall short, the whole project would be endangered. Herr Weigel and other government speakers pledged an "uncompromising adherence" to the Maastricht criteria, which include the need to keep the deficit to 3 per cent of gross

domestic product. Herr Weigel revised upwards the German growth estimate for 1996 from 0.75 per cent to 1 per cent and argued that the budget and austerity package would reduce Germany's deficit to 2.5 per cent of GDP in 1997. According to figures he set out, the 1997 deficit should not exceed DM56.5 billion (£24.4 billion). But even the Government concedes that it could reach nearly DM70 billion.

An idea that old age pen-

sions could be taxed has been floated as government planners search desperately for ways of boosting tax revenue.

The threat to pensions, more than any spending cut, has played into the hands of the Social Democrats, who for the first time sense that they may be able to win an election against Helmut Kohl on the basis of his Government's bad housekeeping. Trade unions have promised protests against the plans.

Cardinal attacks 'Padania' scheme

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THREE days before Italy's separatist Northern League begins its much publicised push for independence with a march, a senior Roman Catholic leader added the voice of the Church yesterday to the growing chorus of opposition to plans to declare "Padania" a separate state.

Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, Archbishop of Milan, which the League considers one of its strongholds, accused the League of "adventurism and demagoguery".

Cardinal Martini did not name the Northern League or Umberto Bossi, its often crude and unpredictable leader. But his remarks in Milan cathedral were universally interpreted as being directed at the League in general and Signor Bossi in particular.

The cardinal said that those who sought secession from the state deluded their followers by holding out the false promise of "magic formulas" and "simplistic drastic solutions". Responsible politicians, he said, resisted all forms of "demagoguery and populism", which could have grave consequences. "No cultural or institutional model which sanctions social or territorial exclusivity is morally acceptable," he said.

La Repubblica said Cardinal Martini had put the Church "in the front line" of those defending the Risorgimento and Italian unity. In a response which will have offended many, Signor Bossi made a mock sign of blessing on television, saying: "Peace and blessings, Cardinal". An opinion poll in *La Repubblica* indicated that 63 per cent of Italians think Signor Bossi is a buffoon.

Chernomyrdin takes charge as Yeltsin awaits operation

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN gave Viktor Chernomyrdin, his Prime Minister, new powers to run the Russian security ministries yesterday while he is on holiday before having a heart operation. But Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential press secretary, said control of the "nuclear button" would remain with Mr Yeltsin.

All important decisions concerning the armed forces, Interior Ministry and intelligence services, normally a presidential preserve, will have to be "co-ordinated" with Mr Chernomyrdin for the duration of Mr Yeltsin's holiday, the press secretary said.

Yesterday's formula appeared to be a compromise designed to forestall a potentially dangerous power struggle while Mr Yeltsin is undergoing surgery. It effectively puts Mr Chernomyrdin in charge of running the country. If Mr Yeltsin remains ill and has to give up the

presidency, Mr Chernomyrdin will, according to the constitution, become acting President and have a head start in the race for the succession.

The new instructions also strengthen the hand of Anatoli Chubais, the presidential Chief of Staff and a political ally of Mr Chernomyrdin, who is effectively running the Kremlin at present. But it will not please Aleksandr Lebed, the ambitious national security adviser, whose policy domains, security matters and Chechnya, will now be entrusted to his rival, the Prime Minister.

A lot will depend on how quickly Mr Yeltsin recovers from his operation. If his recovery takes a long time, the fragile equilibrium between the different rivals could be destroyed.

The President, who is resting outside Moscow, is due to have a heart by-pass operation, probably within the next

month. The political complexities have arisen because of the vertical bias in the Russian hierarchy. There is no Vice-President, while the constitution is vague about the ground rules for how and when power should be delegated to the Prime Minister if the President is unable to carry on.

Mr Yeltsin, in an interview with the magazine *Itogi*, sought to dispel the image of a remote, sick leader which has gathered around him since he was re-elected on July 3. He said he had decided to go public about his heart problems in order to reassure the Russian people that he was still in control.

"The times when the supreme 'boss' would appear once a year somewhere on the dais of the mausoleum and a faceless and nameless crowd of bureaucrats ruled the country have receded into the past with the communist regime, and I am convinced that they will never return," he said.

Swimming fraud won six medals

Budapest: Half of Hungary's swimming team, which won six Olympic medals, got to Atlanta on the basis of fictitious qualification times from an event never held.

Government officials yesterday confirmed newspaper reports of the fraud and blamed the Hungarian Swimming Federation for submitting the false records. Eleven of the 22-member Hungarian team had not attained Olympic qualification times at national and regional meets. So a phantom meet was held and imaginary times were entered, said Renzo Gallor, who heads the Government's National Gymnastics and Sports office.

Two swimmers were even disqualified for the sake of authenticity. MTI, the state news agency, said yesterday that Tamas Gyarmas, head of the federation, had resigned. Mr Gallor said those involved had to be called to account but no medals were in jeopardy. (AP)

Former generals jailed over shoot-to-kill orders at Wall

BY ROGER BOYES

SIX former East German generals were jailed yesterday for ordering border guards to shoot refugees trying to escape to the West.

Their trial was regarded as the most complex of the hearings that have been held in Germany since the collapse of the Berlin Wall. The longest sentence, six-and-a-half years, was imposed on Klaus Dieter Baumgarten.

Dozens of ordinary border guards have been found guilty of murder since they pulled the trigger during escape attempts. Heinz Kessler, a former Defence Minister, and other members of the East German Defence Council were given custodial sentences because it could be shown that they had helped to frame the shoot-to-kill policy. But the six generals sentenced yesterday were implementing orders from above.

Judge Friedrich-Karl Föhrig drew hisses and shouts of "swine" from the public gal-

lery, packed with Communist supporters of the defendants, when he handed down the sentences of between three and six-and-a-half years. Baumgarten was found guilty of manslaughter in 11 cases and attempted manslaughter in five other border incidents. The other generals were found guilty of being accomplices.

"Baumgarten and the other defendants did not create or establish the East German border regime," the judge said in his summing up, "but they supported the system in which they were very small cogs." The prosecution said Baumgarten, 65, and his generals played a key part in securing and reinforcing East Germany's border with minefields and automatic shooting devices. More than 800 people died trying to flee from the East.

The generals do not have to go to prison until their appeal is heard. All are hoping that the constitutional court will

quash Kessler's earlier sentence and thus invalidate their own. "This is a political verdict," Baumgarten said as he was led out of the courtroom.

The defence team argued that East Germany was merely exercising its right in international law to protect its sovereign borders. The judge, however, decided that the shooting of unarmed defectors violated human rights.

New documents discovered by investigators into the files of the East German Stasi secret police have given further muscle to state prosecutors. The papers show an exchange between top security chiefs in which it was recommended that nobody should be shot on the East-West border during the time of the World Youth Festival in 1973 in East Berlin, as it would have been bad publicity. That suggests there were clear shooting instructions and that all officers on border duty were involved.



Honorary consul Sara Marojica with the six British soldiers and Murphy, their mascot

Army's peace Pioneers raise the roof

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE home of the honorary British consul in Dubrovnik has been an empty shell since it was damaged during an artillery attack five years ago in the early stages of the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Now, however, the two-storey farmhouse belonging to Sara Marojica, which overlooks the historic walled city on the Dalmatian coast, has been rebuilt by six British soldiers serving with Nato's Implementation Force (Ifor) in the Croatian port of Split.

Mrs Marojica, born in Liverpool but married to a Croat, has been able to return to her home for the first time since the war. The farmhouse has been in her husband's family for 500 years. The six soldiers were from 522 Squadron 23 Pioneer Regiment, part of

the Royal Logistic Corps. They learnt of her plight and offered to help. They succeeded in rebuilding the house to its prewar state in five weeks.

The honorary consul and her husband were forced to leave the house in the mountains above Dubrovnik after a shell fired from a ship in the Adriatic crashed through their sitting-room window and blew out the roof. The couple escaped unhurt and spent the next five weeks at an hotel in Dubrovnik amid heavy shelling. Many of the shells damaged buildings inside the city walls, some of which date back to the 14th century.

The attack on Dubrovnik, a United Nations heritage site, began in September 1991 and was carried out by Yugoslav forces from the Adriatic and the surrounding mountains. Later Mrs Marojica moved to the British consulate in Zagreb to continue her duties as

honorary consul. She and her husband tried to return to the house in 1993 but were shot at by snipers.

Mrs Marojica said: "Then out of the blue I received a telephone call from the British Army in Split. They had heard I had problems and asked if they could see for themselves."

Under the command of Second Lieutenant Brian Howard, the Pioneers drew up a work plan and five weeks later the job was done.

Mrs Marojica, who was awarded the MBE last year for her work in the former Yugoslavia, said: "The place looks wonderful. The Pioneers are a credit to the British Army. I will be sorry to see them go."

The soldiers from 23 Pioneer Regiment, normally based at Biester in Oxfordshire, left her a Pioneer plaque to put on her walls once the house is redecorated.

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Dole criticises Clinton strategy after Sulaimaniya falls to Saddam's Kurdish allies

US warns of new strikes at repaired Iraqi sites

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon said last night that President Saddam Hussein had ignored American warnings and was rebuilding air defence missile sites hit by American cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq.

This intelligence was divulged as the fall of Sulaimaniya on Monday left the Clinton Administration scrambling to refute criticism of last week's actions. The Republicans said that American credibility had been undermined and that Saddam had been left in control of northern Iraq for the first time since the Gulf War.

A Pentagon official said up to four surface-to-air missile sites had been supplied with new radars since the attack — in defiance of a warning by General John Shalikashvili, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that such moves could prompt renewed strikes. In two attacks last week, 44 missiles hit 15 Iraqi air defence systems.

"The violation will occur if they illuminate any allied aircraft, American, British or

French and they fire," the official said. "That would precipitate a strike from us."

The disclosures appeared to be an attempt to deflect attention from President Clinton's domestic difficulties over the decision to attack Iraq in the first place.

Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, has seized on the latest evidence that Saddam helped Kurdish Democratic Party forces to overrun Sulaimaniya, the final stronghold of their rivals, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. He said the reports of continued strife and killings in northern Iraq, including the execution of Iraqi dissidents backed by Washington and the apparent entrenchment of Iraqi troops around Arbil, raised serious questions about whether Mr Clinton's strategy had advanced American interests in the region.

"In Iraq, as in Bosnia, the Clinton Administration should be careful about making claims of success that events on the ground may not substantiate, and about giving

assurances that it is unable or unwilling to fulfil, because the credibility of the United States is at stake," Mr Dole said.

Although America this week mounted an emergency effort to relocate hundreds of Kurds involved in the humanitarian relief programme in northern Iraq, Mr Clinton has launched no operation to rescue stranded Iraqi dissidents backed by the CIA. It was



Guerrillas of the Kurdistan Democratic Party shout slogans as they drive through Sulaimaniya yesterday after expelling their rivals

reported yesterday that more than 100 CIA-backed opponents of Saddam had been executed months before the American raid.

Last winter the CIA targeted the group, the Iraqi National Accord, as the organisation with the greatest potential to topple Saddam, but it was infiltrated by Iraqi security in June and those in Iraq associated with the organisation

were "wrapped up", according to the Americans.

Another organisation, the Iraqi National Congress, has been almost defunct since the capture of Arbil. Some members have been executed. Despite the CIA's connections with the group, the White House made clear yesterday that it had no intention of helping to evacuate about 200 members still trapped in hos-

tile territory at the mountain fortress of Salahuddin.

The intelligence community in Washington, attempting to wash its hands of the situation, said a team of CIA officers secretly stationed in Salahuddin had provided ample advance warning to members of the Iraqi National Congress about the KDP attack. It appears that the agency had become disenchanted

with the organisation's inability to undermine Saddam.

Clearly concerned by growing criticism of its military efforts, the White House maintained that America's main concerns were protecting the Kurdish population and ensuring that Iraq does not violate the no-fly zone.

Simon Jenkins, page 18
Letters, page 19

WORLD SUMMARY

Ship full of sheep has sunk

Sydney: The search for an abandoned ship carrying 67,000 Australian sheep has been called off after the discovery of debris. This indicates the vessel has sunk. Lloyd Beeby, a spokesman for the Australian Meat and Livestock Corp, said yesterday.

The debris was found just before the four-day search for the *Uniceb* was called off north of the Seychelles. The crew abandoned the ship, en route to Jordan, after fire broke out. They heard two explosions as they drifted in lifeboats. There were no further sightings of the vessel, even though it was left in a busy shipping lane. (Reuters)

Archbishop burnt to death

Bujumbura: Monsignor Joachim Ruhuna, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Gitega province in Burundi, was burnt to death when Hutu rebels ambushed his vehicle, an army spokesman said.

A deacon who arrived on the scene soon after the attack on Monday found the bodies of the archbishop and a nun on fire in their vehicle. (AFP)

Pope 'will not have check-up'

Rome: The Vatican denied a report that the Pope, 76, plans to undergo hospital tests this month to determine the cause of a recurrent intestinal illness. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, his spokesman, said last week that the illness could be linked to a 1981 assassination attempt when the Pope was wounded in the stomach. (AP)

Australia to get 180mph train

Sydney: Australian government ministers have finally approved a \$2 billion (£1 billion) project to build a 180mph train (Rachel Bridge writes). Bickering between state and federal governments has delayed for more than ten years the development of the train, which will run from Sydney to Canberra.

Senators hit at gay marriages

Washington: As a Hawaiian court began hearing a case that could lead to the legalisation of homosexual marriages in that state (Martin Fletcher writes), senators here were preparing to approve an Act that would let states disregard gay marriages legalised elsewhere in America.

Rafsanjani to visit Pretoria

Johannesburg: President Rafsanjani of Iran arrives in South Africa tomorrow for a state visit (Inigo Gilmore writes). He is on a six-nation African tour to win support for his Government, which is accused by America of sponsoring terrorism.

Hung up

Gaza City: Faced with a multi-million-pound bill, Yasser Arafat has barred Palestinian Authority officials from making overseas phone calls. One line reportedly ran up a bill of £212,000 in a month. (AP)

Iran begs for help with refugees

By MICHAEL THROCKMOLLO
IN NICOSIA AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of Kurds fled towards Iran yesterday as Iraq gloated that the victory of its Kurdish militia allies in the city of Sulaimaniya had restored Baghdad's power over the north and humiliated the United States.

Tehran implored the world to help it to cope with the exodus, saying that nearly 200,000 refugees were threatening to swamp its border. The United Nations said it expected 75,000 refugees to converge on the inhospitable

mountainous frontier. Iran has allowed about 100 sick and injured to enter the country but said it would refuse admission to more unless their lives were endangered by illness or hostile armed forces.

Underlining Saddam's renewed influence in the region, his Government declared an amnesty for Kurds who had lived under Western protection since Baghdad lost control of northern Iraq in 1991. The amnesty has failed to convince most of Sulaimaniya's population not to flee, however. Saddam also announced the lifting of a

five-year-old trade embargo on northern Iraq.

"Obviously, he feels he's taming the north with the help of the KDP and is keen to show himself as a magnanimous leader," said a European envoy in Jordan. "But the Kurds know from their bitter history that it is a matter of time before he stabs them in the back again."

Predictably, the state-run Iraqi press gloated over Sulaimaniya's capture, which they presented as the worst setback for America since Vietnam. President Clinton was now like "a caged hyena, rushing around in search of a

way out," scoffed the daily *al-Jumhuriya*, adding that Sulaimaniya's fall had shattered the dreams of the "hashish chasers in the White House". Mr Clinton's policy on Iraq had brought "Washington nothing but 'humiliation, shame and disgrace'". It said.

As Kurds fled towards the Iranian border a headmaster said: "We're afraid. We don't trust the Government of Saddam Hussein."

Although there were no uniformed Iraqi troops in Sulaimaniya, Kurds fear Saddam's notorious secret police will soon establish a presence.

Netanyahu rejects US peace calls

By TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON AND
CHRISTOPHER WALKER

BINYAMIN Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, has brushed aside American calls for prompt action to revive the Middle East peace process, but said yesterday he was more optimistic about reaching an accord with the Palestinians than with Syria.

Insisting that he was determined to pursue peace with Syria after talks with President Clinton, Mr Netanyahu had rejected Administration calls to pull out Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron. He said his Government was not bound by the previous Israeli Government's informal land-for-peace agreement with Damascus.

Mr Netanyahu told 'businessmen in New York yesterday: "At a certain point we will discover whether Syria is interested in peace. I'm more sanguine about the Palestinian plan."

Damascus, meanwhile, said Mr Netanyahu had put another nail in the peace process's coffin. The official *Al-Baath* newspaper said Israel must recognise that the Golan Heights should be returned to Syria.

Israel acts to weed out Russian mafia

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI police have drawn up a list of 35 leading members of the Russian mafia living in the Jewish state and have asked that Eli Suissa, the Interior Minister, take prompt action to deport them.

According to police sources, the suspects are involved in a wide range of criminal activity including arms smuggling, the illicit sale of radioactive material, gambling networks, white slavery and international prostitution. Equally worrying from the point of view of Israel's future is the claim that they have been using vast sums of cash generated by the mafia in the former Soviet Union to buy off local and national politicians.

Yesterday Israel Radio reported that the Palestinian police had also launched a crackdown on Russian mafia activities, ordering a halt to the building of a big casino and hotel complex in the newly autonomous Jericho region after intelligence reports that underworld figures from the former Soviet Union had infiltrated the scheme designed to attract gamblers from Israel, where casinos are banned.

The extent of the penetration by the Russian mafia of Israeli

society, disclosed in a rash of police-inspired media reports, has shocked many Israelis. According to one senior police officer, at least £25 million of the estimated £19 million ferried out of former Soviet Union by the mafia and its rivals in recent years is thought to have been invested in Israel.

Asked whether claims that Israel could be put in a situation similar to that faced by America earlier this century, when underworld figures had much control over national life by means of their political influence, Moshe Shahal, the former Police Minister, told Israel Radio: "Yes, it is relevant." He would not be drawn further, saying that it was a matter for the police to handle.

According to police sources, the list of suspects was first handed to Avigdor Kahalani, the Internal Security Minister. The move came after a Cabinet briefing two weeks ago on the rise in organised crime in the country. Most of this is in the hands of former Soviet citizens, known generically as the Russian mafia although some come from Ukraine and other parts of the former Soviet Union.

Red tape smothers mixed romance

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER

A STAR-CROSSED love affair between an Arab man and a Jewish woman, which began nearly 45 years ago, has been blighted again by threats of exile for three of their children after hopes that the 1994 Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty had at last brought the family happiness.

The family's plight has touched hearts on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide and led to pressure on the Israeli Ministry of Interior to bend its usually rigid bureaucratic procedures.

Yediot Aharonot reported that the roots of the trouble go back to the ancient crusader port of Acre, in Israel, where in 1952 Waneta Cohen, a young Jewish girl of Bulgarian extraction, became pregnant by her 18-year-old Muslim neighbour, Hassan Anthawi. Both youngsters were disowned by their parents and Hassan was jailed for statutory rape. But after his release the couple escaped to Jordan, leaving behind their baby daughter to be raised by Waneta's relatives.

They might have remained in Jordan but for the 1994 treaty signed by the late Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Prime Minister, and King Hussein which prompted them to try to return to their families, who had forgiven them and wanted them to return.

A year ago, according to friends, permission was granted for the couple to return to Israel with their three sons, aged 26, 23 and 21.

to be reunited with their families and their daughter. The return was made possible when a senior rabbi, Bakschi Doron, announced that Waneta was still Jewish despite her conversion to Islam and that her children were also Jewish and therefore could immediately come to Israel, although they had all been born in Jordan.

In 1995 the family settled in Acre, and all went well until about six months ago when Hassan was taken into hospital. The youngest son, Yusef, asked to go to work to help the family. Under Israeli law he needed a work permit.

But when Waneta approached the Ministry of the Interior for the document, she was told that the temporary residence permits her child-

ren held as Jordanian citizens had expired and that all three would be deported to the Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan from which they had come. The parents, as Israeli citizens, were allowed to stay. An Interior Ministry spokeswoman said: "The issue is being looked into."

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Royal Mail marks British motoring's celebration of two centuries this year with a set of five special stamps to be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p. There is more to a stamp than just an attractive design as 60 million collectors know. An Edward VII sixpenny stamp issued in March 1904 and overprinted with the words IR OFFICIAL, is worth about £85,000 in mint condition.

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CHANGING TIMES

توكنا من الأصل

ALPHABETICAL GUIDE TO DEGREE VACANCIES: SCIENCES

SCIENCE degree vacancies appear today for the last time in this year's Degree Vacancies service.

Courses in science subjects are filling at a fast rate in many universities, but with a flexible approach, there should be degree places to be had throughout the remainder of the clearing process.

The Times service, the only daily national newspaper listing of degree vacancies, runs on a three-day cycle until Friday. The remaining vacancies in the arts and social science will be listed tomorrow, and engineering and technology will complete the process on Friday.

An asterisk shows courses are part of modular schemes, available in a variety of combinations. All others are identified by the codes used in the Ucas handbook.

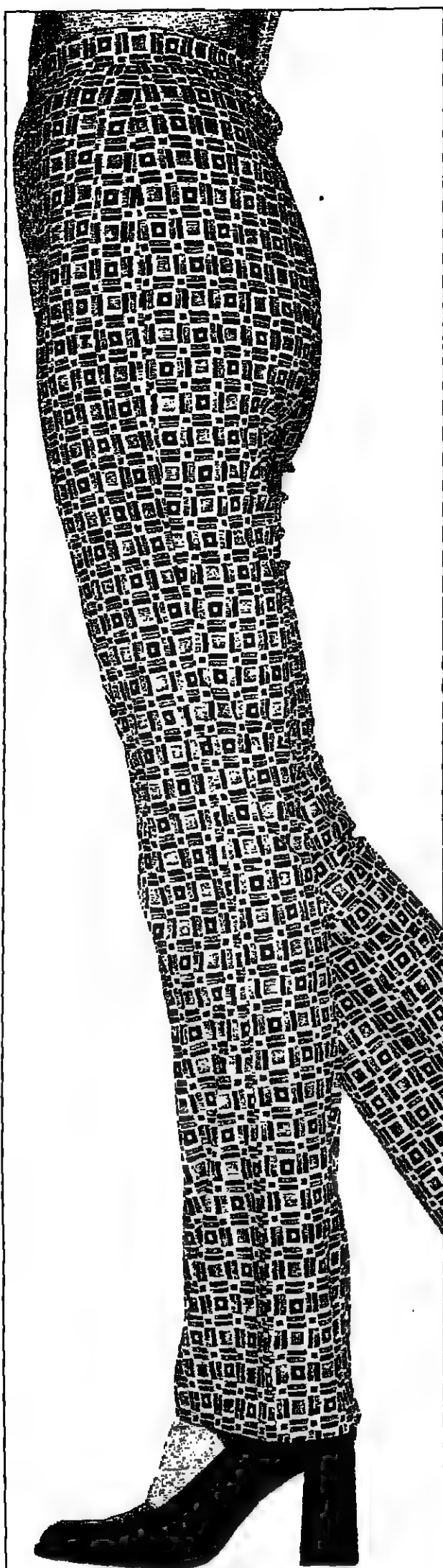
AGRICULTURE/AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

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ANIMAL SCIENCE

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Making a comeback with flare



Flared trousers are staging a return this autumn says Style Editor, **Grace Bradberry** but this time in the shape of the highly flattering bootcuts

Flares have been flapping around for several seasons now, but only the very tall and lean have so far dared to buy them.

And with good reason. They have an unerring ability to distort the body, shortening legs and widening hips. But this autumn, flares really are making a comeback, though in a modified form. Bootcut trousers, so called because they kick out at the hem to allow room for high heels or boots, have made a comeback.

So what's different about bootcuts? Quite simply, they are flattering. The best ones elongate the leg, slim the thigh, and create a flat stomach. Worn long over the foot, they allow for a pair of heels, lengthening the legs still further.

This season's definitive pants were by Gucci. But they were also seen stalking the catwalk shows of Chanel, Anna Molinari and others, making already tall models look as though they were on stilts.

Joseph Ettedgui, the designer who heads the Joseph empire, has made something of a speciality of the cut. The fabric, he declares, is crucial. The ideal fabric is not particularly traditional, but rather fluid, with a bit of body. Stretch is important.

For daytime, Joseph has taken what appear to be traditional tailoring fabrics, but mixed them with stretch fibres, so that the trousers hold their shape while following the body's curves.

As a result, the shape can be sharply defined. "For this winter, they should be worn quite tight," says Joseph. "And the kick should definitely begin just below the knee."

But the most important point to look for when buying bootcut trousers is that they actually fit at the thighs. Too tight, and they'll create a sausage effect, with the leg bulging out between the knee and hip.

Whatever you choose to wear with the trousers, it should continue the long line. Slim-fitting shirts and turtle necks work well, but if you want to de-emphasise the bust then a jacket is probably the best option.

The one by Joseph (shown in the main picture), is short, neat and has a slightly shrunken silhouette.

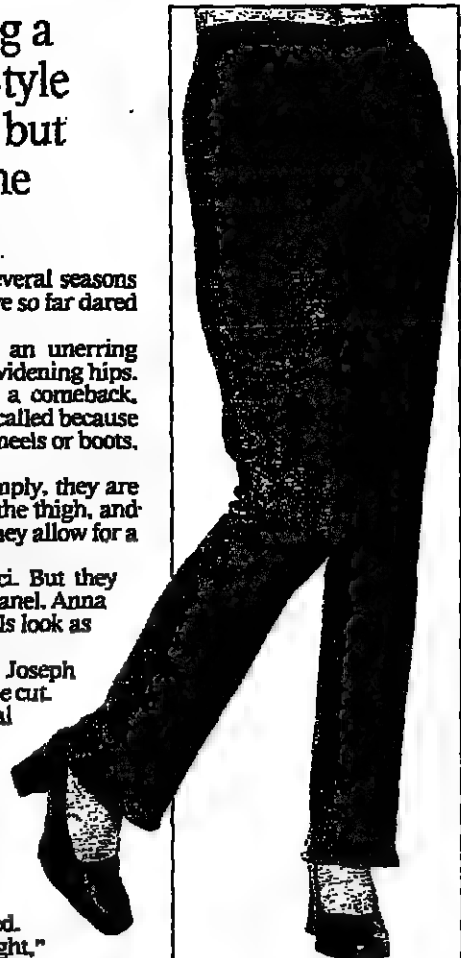
Leathers and suedes are everywhere this autumn, but beware anything too heavy as they will thicken the legs and blur the effect of what should be a sharply defined shape.

Finally, if you're looking for something more casual than the trousers featured here, then Levi's have brought back their classic boot-cut jeans at around £50 a pair, though different stores carry different prices.

And Farah trousers, skeletons in the cupboard of Seventies adolescence, are also back, with what they describe as "a new look for the chemical generation".

Naf Naf green stretch cotton optical print trousers, £49.95. (0171-580 7463).

Photographs: MANN and MAN Model: Jayne Windsor, Select Hair and make-up: Alex Babsey Fashion Assistant: Bola Siwoku



French Connection maple stretch bootcut hipsters with a jean-like look, £80. 249 Regent St, W1.



Kookai brown stretch velvet hipster, cut from heavy cotton with Lycra, £49.99. Available from high street branches nationwide.



Jigsaw flat-front herringbone trousers with low-cut waistband and hip pockets, £72. 126-127 New Bond St, W1, and 39-43 King St, Manchester.



Plein Sud burgundy trousers, £169. Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, SW7



Whistles black/grey stripe wool twill trousers with very low waistband, £110, 27 Sloane Sq, SW1. Also at 9 High St, Oxford.



Dorothy Perkins chocolate brown boot cut gaberdine trousers with a narrow waistband and a hint of flare, £25, branches nationwide.

Catwalk glam or sleek slick?

FRANCOIS Nars specialises in dramatic, movie-star looks for the catwalk, and is the latest in a string of make-up artists to introduce his own-label products to Britain.

The Nars range is for women who want to make an impact and are interested in fashion-show life. His Khaki and Togo eye colours featured in the Valentino and Istante shows, while Fuji (forest green) and Moulin Rouge (deep plum) dominated Ferretti and Philosophy.

The range isn't cheap. An eyeshadow duo costs £22, while sheer lipsticks, with names like Barbarella and Belle du Jour, are £15.50. From Space NK, 41 Earlham Street, Covent Garden, London, tel: 0171-379 7030.

SLICKED back hair is the style to have this autumn. It may look simple but, frankly, it's a real performance. First you need to dry the hair straight, then apply just enough and no more of a

suitable finishing product. The truly fashion-conscious should look for Oribe Pommes (pronounced Or-pay), which come in two quiff-creating strengths and are priced £8.50.

For real fashion victims, there are eight different colours for the antithesis of the natural look. These tint the hair then wash out, and cost £9.50. Available through Beauty Quest, a new mail-order club. Tel: 0541 505 000, or from Space NK.

THE VERDICT

FRENCH CONNECTION: Front pockets and belt loops on waistband give a jeans-like appearance to these. Cut short in the leg to stop above the ankle with a kick at the hem.

KOOKAI: Deep waistband which fits low on hips. Cut from heavy cotton with Lycra which ensures a very close fit. Short leg length reveals the ankle. Good as an everyday basic trouser.

JIGSAW: A well tailored herringbone tweed trouser, cut slim but not too tight on leg. Low-cut waistband, belt loops, practical hip pockets and a back pocket. Generous leg length which can be worn with any height of heel. An excellent work trouser.

PLEIN SUD: No waistband. Low cut on hips. Can be worn belted. Cut extremely long in the length, so requires a high heeled shoe. A pronounced flare from knee to hem gives a dramatic and very flattering silhouette.

WHISTLES: Black/-Grey stripe wool twill with very low waistband. The pinstripes effectively slim and lengthen the leg. Extra long length and designed to be worn with a high heeled boot or shoe.

DOROTHY PERKINS: Gaberdine trousers with a simple styling and a narrow waistband. Cut loose on the leg with a hint of flare. Let down by the thinness of fabric.

NAF NAF: Green stretch cotton print trouser. Very slim fitting casual trouser cut to hug the hips. Unusual front patch pockets on hips and back. It provides a very flattering silhouette.

BOLA SIWOKU

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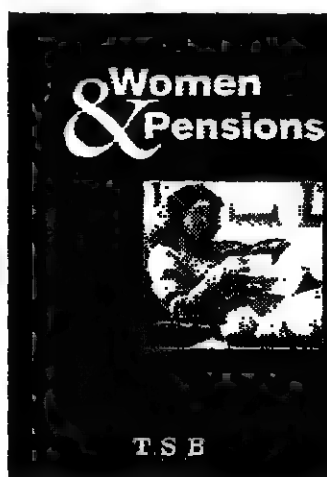
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Despite their early friendship, Dr Runcie believed that if Terry Waite "was going to be an international negotiator, he oughtn't to be on my staff"

Terry always enjoyed the centre stage

Meeting Terry Waite for the first time, I was not prepared for his size — he towers above everyone and is broadly built in the relaxed bulging that a very big man can afford. I liked this side of him, but was less comfortable with what I soon found myself labelling his "holier" aspect — a solemn and self-consciously "religious" manner into which he was always slipping, quite unlike anything that I had experienced with Runcie.

I asked Waite why he had never been ordained. "For a very simple reason. I don't believe I have a priestly vocation. I have valued the freedom to move and work in a variety of ways..." Did he feel, early on, that some great task was waiting for him, did he have a sense of looking for a dramatic role? "I don't believe so, although I've always been drawn towards situations that are very difficult, virtually impossible."

With hindsight, his extraordinary career as a superman liberator of hostages begins to look like a calculated reaction to Runcie's fence-sitting. "I'd never thought of that," said Waite. "If we look at the hostage episodes, it was quite clear that there was a point of very considerable principle."

Also it became clear over Beirut that the Foreign Office was not getting anywhere, and knew very little, and would value an involvement by us. It seemed to me that if we claimed to be the Church of England, and not a sectarian group... we ought to do it. And if we were to do it, we ought not to turn back when the going got tough."

At what point did he feel Runcie's support for him was waning? "Well, we were not having early success. We were in touch with Syria, we were in touch with the Lebanese, we were in touch with... oh, dozens of people, but nothing really seemed to be moving. And I think Robert felt, look, we're not really getting far... We deliberately chose the strategy of going public, of giving

The Runcie Biography: Humphrey Carpenter reveals that when Terry Waite's life was on the line in Lebanon he felt a lack of support from the Archbishop



In February 1981 Terry Waite aided the release of three Anglican hostages from Iran

myself a public profile, in order to get a response from kidnappers... But I think Robert thought I was making it too much of a personal crusade. And that would be a fair criticism."

I told Waite what Runcie had said to me: "Waite was initially a good friend and a good companion and we worked well together. But he always enjoyed centre stage; he was what Oliver North once called a 'grandstander' — but forgivably so. Of course it was totally absorbing to him, but if he was going to be an international negotiator he oughtn't to be on my staff."

Did Waite think this was fair comment? "No, I don't think it is, entirely. If he didn't want to get involved in it, he ought to have said so very clearly. In which case I could have said, 'Very well, in that case I resign, and I'll do it from another base.' I was quite prepared to do that. Once the American arms for hostages deal was exposed, I had to go back to Beirut, to demonstrate my good faith to the kidnappers. And what would it say to men who were in prison [they actually wrote to the Archbishop saying: 'Please help us'] if

we said, sorry, we're pulling out because it's too tough? ... So I went back. I said, 'I damn well will, even if this costs me my life. That may sound arrogant, but I was willing because it was so important.'"

In a sense, the half-heartedness of Runcie's support had made him go even further? "Absolutely. I admit to certain uncharitable thoughts, when I was... in the Lebanon... And my life was on the line every day. And I thought, am I really supported from home? And I wasn't."

I asked Waite what his feeling had been when the Iranagate story broke. The picture he paints of North in his book is so cloak-and-dagger that it can scarcely have surprised him to see North's double-dealing revealed. "... My feeling was one of absolute sickness, because I realised that there was a chance here of myself being compromised, of the whole thing collapsing totally. ... I mean, that's why I got on the phone to him immediately. He actually phoned North? "Yes, and asked him what the hell was going on. He simply said 'Oh don't worry, I'll be all right.'"

I suggested to Waite that it was fair to say that he had left a lot of questions unanswered in his book, *Taken on Trust*.

In the review of Waite's *Taken on Trust*, Robert Fisk, who had been *The Times* correspondent in Beirut during the hostage crisis, is very sceptical about Waite's position over Iranagate. He writes: "After talking to the State Department he [Waite] banged down the phone with the words 'Bastards!' Even at that early stage, it seems, the Americans were two-timing Terry Waite."

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One was that while Waite fully described the physical discomforts of captivity, and the psychological uncertainty, I didn't get the feeling of absolute and utter despair which he must, surely, have felt at least from time to time. "No, I didn't. I don't think I did feel absolute and utter despair... I said to myself, as I say in the book, death would be preferable to this living death. But I didn't particularly want to die in those circumstances, with my family and friends not knowing how I died."

Another area he didn't go into in the book was his relations with the other hostages when they were confined. "I have two reasons for that. One is that the book was written in my head, in captivity; it's primarily a book written from solitary. And when you move from solitary to be with others, a very different process takes place — you're into personal communication. The book, in a sense, ends when I join the others."

I could understand his not wanting to write about the others. But there must have been quite a lot of conflict between them all: surely that was when he must have learnt most about himself, seeing himself as they saw him? "Yes, there was conflict, but I don't think it was necessarily the conflict that one could really get hold of, because almost for the whole of that final year I was sick... And a chronic irritation to the others because of it."

But did he have the experience, confined with the others, of seeing himself through other people's eyes? "Oh yes, of course, it's the most terrible thing. I'm not blind to that. I know my own failings."

I told Runcie I was puzzled that Waite could convince himself that he could spend the rest of his life sitting in his cottage in Suffolk writing books. Runcie replied: "He wants to be in action again."

Edited extracts from Robert Runcie: *The Reluctant Archbishop*, by Humphrey Carpenter, published next month by Hodder and Stoughton, £20. ©1996 Humphrey Carpenter

Smacking problems for step-parents in the new family order

Everyone knows what they think about the thumped boy who is taking his case to Europe. The row chugs on, covering all-too-familiar tracks. We are familiar with the arguments: the anti-smackers champion his case, seeing in it hope that the smacking of children will, finally, be outlawed over here. Smackers denounce all this modern, soft, curo-folly, shaking their heads and sorrowfully wishing that reason and authority will prevail.

But neither reaction is to the point here. This is not a case about whether parents should or should not be allowed to smack their children. The difficulty, however, is that it is always difficult to stay out of that particular argument. It is so tempting to weigh in, to remark that even pro-smackers might see that going at a child regularly with a stick is beyond the realms of "reasonable chastisement", that it does not even constitute smacking.

John Major's contribution here is notably flawed. God, how depressing it is to have as one's Prime Minister a man who says: "My children were dealt with at home by Norma and I in a way that was appropriate and personal to them." If you think it is the thought that counts, then you might concede him this one — but by Norma and I?

If this case were simply about what rights parents have over their children and what rights the state has over parents, we could easily carry on down this particular road. But this would be spectacularly to miss the point: this case is not about the family but about the step-family, an entirely different matter.

With more than half of all first marriages (and a notable chunk of second marriages) ending in divorce, the step-family is the new norm. And because it has become so familiar, we think we are at home with the new rules. We are not. And they are different. That should, surely, be recognised.

To some extent we do acknowledge this extraordinary sensitive difference, although not explicitly. I think, though, that it is shown in the nervousness with which we are conducting this debate, the way we skirt around the details. That it was the stepfather wielding the stick is certainly mentioned, as is the fact that the boy's natural father is supporting his son's action. But there is a curious silence about the implications of all this. Oh, perhaps it is insinuated that there might be a little tension there, some conflict. But let's take it out of the personal arena. The relationship between the two husbands, one ex, one current, in this case, is not in itself the point. But we are right to look at the relationship, generally, between a child and a step-parent. We are wrong to presume that, give or take a bit of blood, things are the same or ever could be.

Theoretically, one could insist that there is no difference who is wielding the stick. I am not sure I would want to argue the toss, but I think we are right to feel nervous about any step-parent's chastisement of a child. We do not own our children but we are responsible for them, and I mean viscerally so, rather than simply legally. There are many real fathers who beat their children — the blood tie does not ensure better treatment — but we understand the often murky depths of the bond between parent and child. What is the bond between step-parent and child? Why should one even exist? The relationship is between the adults.

We are all well-versed in the horrors of the evil stepmother.

Whatever the judges decide, who makes the rules when slapping adult and slapped child are unrelated by blood?

Reading children's stories to my daughter, I am appalled at the intensity and frequency of her depiction. The cruel stepfather is largely absent from the children's canon, but the stories that do exist tell us enough about a child's fear of betrayal in the home.

To be sure, one must presume that on the whole a child's experience of step-parents is not a tortured one, although there are bound to be difficulties. A mother of unruly children might well,

in a number of familial matters must also now be up for inspection. When, in November last year, someone in the photographic department of Boots went to the police about some photos taken of Julia Somerville's naked child, the debate that followed was predictable. Was childhood innocence dead and buried? Must we see pornography everywhere? Must our minds be clouded by the obscenities of child abuse?

Of course, the man behind the counter had no idea who had taken the photos, so that could not colour his judgment. But again, there seemed to be some nervousness about the public reaction later. No one said as much — and I don't mean to imply any inappropriate behaviour in this instance — but I think we all felt that we were less sure of the rules when it involved an unofficial stepfather in the house.

Again, I don't need telling that men have, since time immemorial, interfered with their daughters. But I do believe that our increasing sensitivity about the sexual abuse of children is due to the increasing number of step-families. What taboos really exist between step-parent and child? None — for all the biblical proscriptions — that protects either of them.

In discussing these situations as if the words father and stepfather were all but interchangeable, we are denying the way in which the roles differ. I have often thought that the terms stepfather and stepmother are fundamentally unhelpful. They blur the fact that there is no necessarily parental relationship there at all. There is a sexual relationship between one of the child's parents and someone else: the children involved might have a close relationship with the partners of either parent, but that does not make those partners Ersatz or additional parents. Indeed, the most successful step-relationships exist when neither party makes such a claim.

This is not to discredit the set-up that might now exist — I know from my own experience that there are pleasures and benefits, too, in the modern extended family — but we have to accept that things have changed and the law, too, should take this into account.

Perhaps this is too cynical, but I cannot help thinking that with such a large part of the electorate consisting of step-families, we are a long way from seeing any politician with his eye on his vote doing anything to acknowledge these new dangers or to tackle the new taboos. It is up to us. And maybe it is better that way — only we cannot, must not, shrink it.



Nigella Lawson

after exhausting years as a single parent, like to have a man around to take them in hand. That is, after all, what she will have been told they need (I would concur, with the proviso that the man they need is their father). She might be grateful to be taken on and taken in together with the children (we are sensitive enough about paternity to have, culturally, a shared nervousness about one man's acceptance of another man's child) and might be relieved to be given support in disciplining them.

But her children, surely, would be right to resent this interloper, to wonder what right he has to tell them what to do, to take parental responsibility for them, let alone to hit them. To the mother it might look generous, to the child it would inevitably seem mean.

We, too, are right to question the appropriateness of such behaviour. But then, what is or is not appropriate

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Alan Coren



Man has a new best friend, but the police don't want to know

I do not want to write this piece. Not only is it going to be a really gruesome piece, which means that many of you will not want to read it — especially if it is your habit to prop *The Times* against the cruet set while you spoon down your morning roughage — but it is also going to be the sort of piece which generates sackfuls of replies, many of them written in the spidery hand and emerald ink of the completely demented.

That is because the piece is about cats. You will therefore instantly appreciate that though neither I may want to write it nor you to read it, duty miasms. For British cats are suddenly more important than they have ever been, not simply for themselves but for their prime position as cultural signifiers, now that their population, as of this year's pet census, outnumbered, for the first time, that of dogs. I do not know why this has happened, they do not fetch our slippers, they do not bite our burglars, they do not even bring our sticks back, yet nonetheless cats have now achieved a national significance second, quadrupodally at least, to none.

But it is not, it seems, significant enough. I know this because, when I went to my gate this morning to collect the milk, there was a dead cat in the road. At some earlier point it had been flattened, and it was all too pitifully evident that the later the morning had grown, the flatter had grown the cat, so that matters had now reached a point where some kind of expert would be required to separate it from the tarmac. And, furthermore, to notify the bereaved. So I rang the police.

To discover, to my astonishment, the insignificance of what is now man's best friend. For while the police will pull out all the official stops to deal with a dead, or merely missing, dog, when it comes to cats, *de minimis non curat lex*.

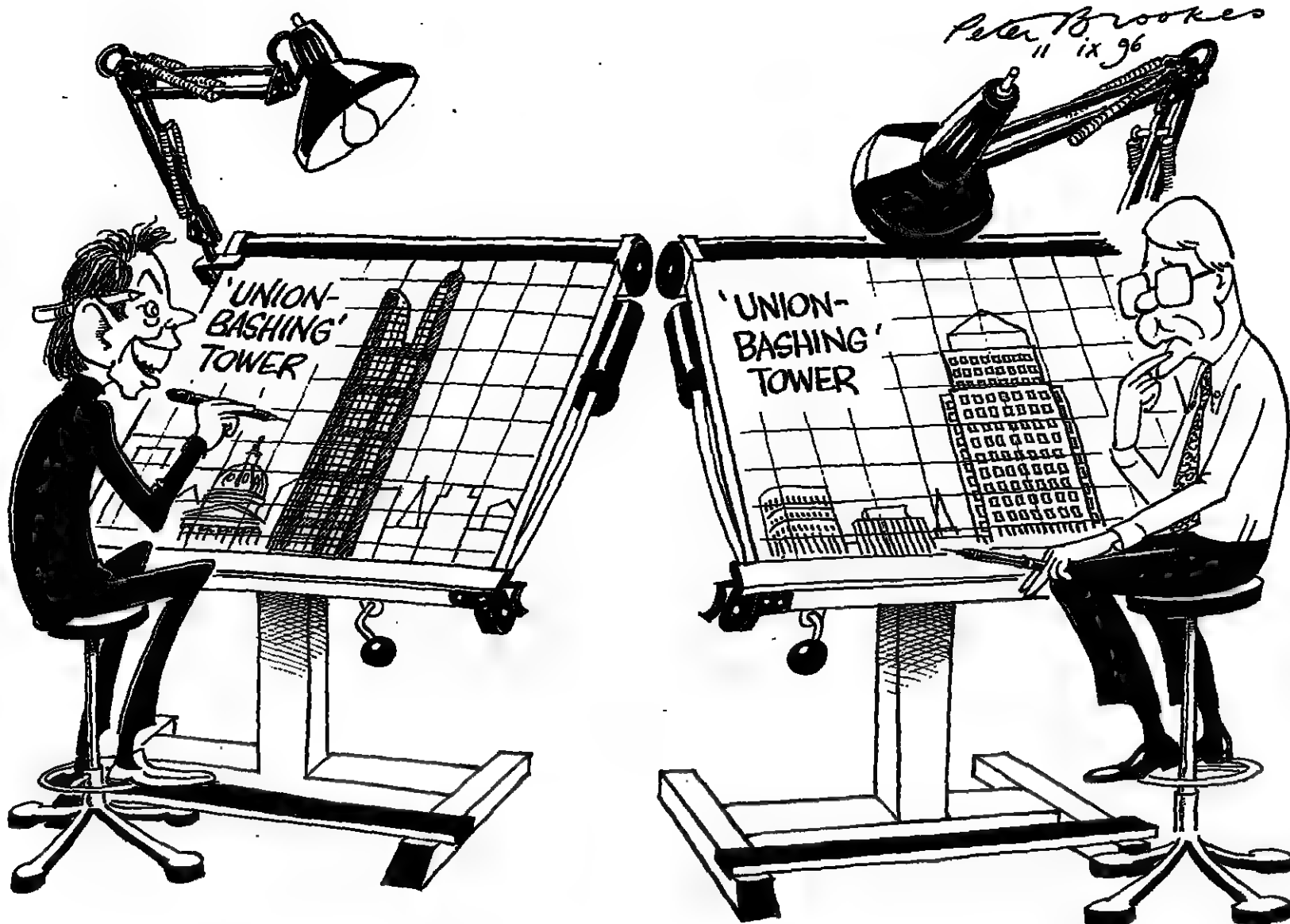
The cat, alive or dead, has no constabulary status. It is, I was informed in the Bill's drear jargon, non-notifiable. So what do I do? I said, You phone Barnet Council's Highway Cleaning Department, said the Bill. They added tenderly, will send a bloke round to scrape it up.

Scrape it up? Someone loved this cat — indeed probably still does, not yet knowing that it will never again pop through the catflap, having reached a state where it could as easily be slid under the door. The ex-owner should be compassionately told what had happened, not left to speculate and fret, or wander the streets day and night calling its name, putting out bowls of milk or marrowbone jelly destined only to attract unpet files. More yet, they should be told that it was dead so that they could grieve, and, more still, be given the opportunity to retrieve their loved one, roll it up, and bury it in some dappled garden spot, erect a headstone, bedeck the poignant mound with catnip, all that.

What am I to do for the best? Two hours have passed since I rang the Highway Cleaning Department, but their grim scraper hasn't yet arrived, and I can't decide what to do when he does: ask him for the scrapings — even though he is sure to claim he is not empowered to release these under Section 12 of the Highways (Scrapings) Act 1934, folding money may sometimes spot a loophole — and divine some way of finding their proper resting place? If so, how? Wait for a note to be put on a gate about a missing cat, with a description now utterly unhelpful and a name to which it is no longer in a position to answer? Put one on my own asking if anyone has lost a tyre-coloured moggy three feet square? And how long, never mind where, should I be expected to keep feline remains, the weather still being mild for the time of year?

Two further cars have just rendered the problem yet more insoluble: by the time the Council turns up, it could be a question of cat, what cat. I trust this is not some kind of prank, we are up to here with hedgehogs as it is. So can any great emerge from all this? Well, just possibly, for though this cat's fate is sadly sealed, it may unleash the fate of others: I ask for the law to be changed to make cats notifiable, so that they fall within the reach of its long arm. That is why I have written this piece.

Despite a strong suspicion that the Bill will have wanted me to write it even less than I did.



"MINE'S BIGGER THAN YOURS..."

Proud to be a cynic

Clinton has betrayed the Kurds. So why do Major and Blair grovel to him?

In October 1983, America invaded the Caribbean mini-state of Grenada to topple a nasty regime. It did so in defiance of a United Nations resolution and of international law. The invasion was a shambolic American "precision bombing" wiped out Grenada's mental hospital, killing some 50 patients. Margaret Thatcher publicly berated Ronald Reagan, despite his support for her Falklands campaign a year earlier. Friends must speak honestly to friends, she said. Wrong is wrong. Great powers must respect state borders if they are to expect others to respect them. I was proud of Mrs Thatcher that day.

This week, Britain has grovelled before Bill Clinton's bombing of Iraq. Both John Major and Tony Blair felt obliged to support it. America's other allies behaved like sovereign states. The French, the Germans, even the Irish, thought and acted for themselves. Every British minister and diplomat privately thought Washington's action pure opportunism. But the whoosh of an American missile had knees kneeling to attention all over London. Uncle Sam is right, even if wrong. It was a humiliating spectacle.

Mr Clinton's bombing succeeded in its unspoken goal. As today's *Time* magazine trumpets, his domestic standing has risen, with a 70 per cent approval for the bombing and for "using military force to remove Saddam from power". The same poll showed 60 per cent opposed to doing this in the only way possible, by deploying ground troops. But consistency has never been a requisite of democracy.

Too bad if America's tactic of bolstering Kurdistan is in ruins. Too bad if the CIA is forced to rat on its friends and leave them to be shot in the streets of Arbil. Too bad if millions of dollars are wasted, an alliance is wrecked and an unknown number of people are mutilated or killed. The President's poll rating is up. The operation is a success.

But why does Britain need to be party to all this? Why does Mr Major have to claim, absurdly, that the bombing was "needed to prevent another humanitarian disaster"? Why does Labour's Robin Cook gabble about the bombing being to "protect the safe heavens"? He could read in *The Independent* (as his M16-briefed staff must already have told him) the revelation that America had refused to protect these heavens as recently as last July. As for the "pin-point" accuracy of

the missiles, over which the British press drooled at the weekend, Mr Major found himself supporting the second missile raid because the first "was not as successful as one might have wished". When British diplomats are in craven mode, they cite Lord Melbourne's famous plea for support not when he was in the right, but when he was in the wrong. Yet Mr Clinton was not seeking the right or wrong thing to do in Iraq. He was acting from self-interest. So too were the French and the Arab states who opposed the American action. Iraq has become a supermarket where any statesman may shop for domestic profit. Britain might have some interest in Saddam's downfall, or in weakening him, or in helping the Kurds. But no sane person could believe that Tomahawks would do any such things.

As Charles Glass points out in this week's *TLS*, the history of Western deviancy in Kurdistan knows no bounds. It began with Britain's bombing of Kurdish villages in the 1920s. The Americans succoured the Kurdish leader, Mulla Barzani, against Saddam in the 1970s, then turned on him. They then succoured his son, Massoud Barzani, and last month turned on him. He learned from his father's mistake and chose Saddam's support as the lesser evil. To be anyone's worse evil than Saddam Hussein takes some doing: Nato has done it.

What the West did in 1991 was reprehensible. Faced with distressing television images of refugees, Nato declared Kurdistan safe. This was a cynical, media-driven act which Nato knew it could not honour. As with Bosnia, the outside world was half-guaranteeing the security of a half-sovereign state. There are some 20 million Kurds — making the world's largest nation without a state — who foolishly thought in 1991 that their *de facto* independence might be a legacy of the Gulf War. They were deceived. They appear to have chosen a period of coward stability under the Turkish-Iraqi diarchy.

A bizarre group of lobbyists, from the

Tories' Lord Archer to Labour's Ann Clwyd, have ridden to the cause of the Kurdish faction opposed to Barzani, the Iran-backed PUK. They wish the West to renew its guarantee to Kurdistan as a whole and put troops on the ground. This parades the most reckless of romantic Arabist fantasies. A Western military guarantee to Kurdistan was a cruel deceit in 1991: today it would be meaningless. Which Kurds? Whose Kurdistan? The last remnants of the 1991 guarantee — some 200 CIA agents — are now being rescued from the mountains, leaving their erstwhile friends to be shot by fellow Kurds.

Those Britons demanding war on Saddam are "killing Kruger with their mouths". Hundreds if not thousands of Iraqis must have died as a direct result of America's hamfisted covert intervention against Saddam since 1990. Foreign involvement in other people's internal wars should be privatised. It should be left to mercenaries, philanthropists and expatriates. When Britons sought to defeat Franco in the 1930s, they did so as private citizens and with their own lives at risk, not from the comfort of armchairs and television studios.

On this page last week, Lawrence Freedman criticised those who doubt America's motives in Iraq. He did so on the eccentric grounds that America is "setting Saddam rules to live by". He said, in effect, that any bombing by Washington is better than none and deserves support. An occasional missile sent round the globe reminds the world who is boss.

This is a revival of the policy of "containment by overkill", advocated by Henry Kissinger in Laos and Cambodia during the Vietnam war. The pure terrorism of American military hardware, goes the argument, should make lesser mortals rein back on their atrocities. America can always bomb them into the Dark Ages. They should beware. But

while this concept had some application to the Cold War, it had none in South-East Asia and has none today. America is an impatient, half-hearted boss, and that is worse than no boss at all.

There are now two contrasting and incompatible approaches to handling dictators. One abuses them, ostracises them, occasionally bombs them. It is easy and morally glamorous, but it never delivers the goods. Libya, Somalia, Bosnia, Serbia and Iraq stand out in defiance. The other approach leaves them to stew in their own juice. It does not attack an oppressed people with the further oppression of sanctions or elevate its rulers into anti-American heroes. This approach believes that to promote political change there must be a change in the nature of the regime.

The appeal of the first approach seems never to fade. Nobody questions the effectiveness of bombs and embargoes: people merely demand more of them. A myriad of Western institutes and academics, seminars and conferences, steer clear of the central question of world politics: why do bombs and sanctions fail to convert evil dictatorships into stable democracies? Punditry is seized by the intellectual terror that afflicted the early years of the Cold War. Saddam is loathsome. Openly to advocate "doing nothing about Saddam", for whatever reason, is the equivalent of being "soft on communism". Any act, however stupid or counterproductive, is better than nothing.

The truth is that foreign policy in a democracy remains, as always, a subset of domestic policy. It is about display, show, bravado and self-interest. The shambles this week in Kurdistan was a passing sideshow. As a Washington official reportedly told Barzani last month, when he pleaded for help against his rivals, "We have bigger fish to fry than the Kurds." Small wonder he smelt American treachery and went for help to Saddam. Only after Barzani and his new Iraqi backers secured the easy fall of Arbil did Washington send missiles, "as a message to Saddam". We have seen this past week what that message was: Kurds need not vote for Bill Clinton but Americans should.

If that is cynical, I am proud to be a cynic. How else can an American look a Kurd in the eye just now? Why Mr Major had to put his name to such a trick beats me. Why Mr Blair had to agree with him is a yet greater mystery.

Simon Jenkins

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Retrievers

ELECTRONIC tags are being inserted into the Queen's dogs to prevent them from going missing. The idea was suggested to Her Majesty two years ago, after Prince Charles lost Pooh, his Jack Russell, which was never found despite an intensive dog-hunt around the Balmoral estate.

Two royal spaniels have had microchips implanted. The size of grains of rice, these contain data about their owner. If lost, the spaniels can be traced by scanner and the Queen's many other dogs — corgis, labradors and so on — are expected to be tagged soon.

Her Majesty wanted to show her support for the RSPCA-backed tagging system, says the Palace. The Prince of Wales, who took on a replacement puppy after Pooh went missing down a rabbit hole, is said to be considering tagging his dogs as well. But retainers at the Palace are unsure about the experiment. Many would like to see the last of the ankle-biting mutts.

Eric Cantona has found a new game. After painting, acting, theatrical patronage and literary criticism he has turned to chess.

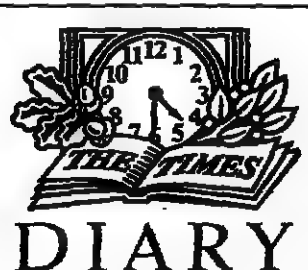
His favoured haunt of late has been Café Renoir, a small French-style joint in Manchester frequented by students. There he holds court over a chess board, discussing strategies through cappuccino-fuelled afternoons.

Eye-eye

THURSDAY night saw the Duke of York supping with the Royal



How do you fancy being Mr Bunkett's new guide dog?



College of Ophthalmologists in London. The evening groggy bibulous as the eye-men spotted the optics behind the bar.

Fortunately, the Duke doesn't have to worry about missing the last bus. A helicopter was on hand to sweep him back to his naval base in Portland, Dorset. The next morning, however, he felt a familiar throbbing behind the eyes. He dozed, woke, and dozed again until he saw the time. Diving headlong into his kit, he made it to his first engagement of the day, a plaque unveiling in Portland — an apologetic 15 minutes late.

Big star

A HUGE star is to fill our screens. Washington Sixilo is the domed-bellied and chesty South African actor who plays King Lobengula, ruler of the Matabele, in the BBC's

forthcoming epic series about Cecil Rhodes. His friend is larger still. When David Drury, the director, first met Sixilo, the man-mountain was accompanied by an individual who dwarfed even him. The friend fixed Drury with a hard stare and listened in disarming silence as he outlined the plot. "I was talking about King Lobengula and felt increasingly uncomfortable as I realised that I hadn't researched the subject thoroughly," says Drury.

Only after he had finished did the biggest man reveal his identity. He is great grandson of



Sixilo: man-mountain

King Lobengula, and declaring "It was so", he authorised the project, and Sixilo was secured.

Harrowing

OUR parliamentarians were left kicking their heels the other day when they turned out to play the Old Harrovians at the school, in a fixture that goes back many years. A sunny day and perfect conditions, mused John Redwood, limbering up as he watched the groundsmen prepare the wicket. "Then I learnt from the groundsmen that the wicket wasn't being prepared for us, it was for a game the following weekend. Our match had been cancelled," he said. "Everybody on the team seemed to turn out, but nobody told us. Although it was nice to go back and do some work, it was a shame not to get some practice for the Europhile v Euroscopic match we're planning."

Has landed

ORNITHOLOGICAL news wings its way from Ireland. The former Taoiseach Charles Haughey has been reunited with his pet sea eagle, which flew off four years ago. He likened the bird, with its horrid talons, to Margaret Thatcher. Haughey became acquainted



Bird in the hand

with two eagles — Maeve (female) and Aillil (male) — some years ago when he started tracking them on his island, Inis Mhicileáin. He soon became adept at handling them. "I've dealt with Maggie in my day," he would explain. But four years ago, Maeve disappeared — only to reappear recently. "We were so excited," says Haughey. "She was flying so well."

P.H.S

Putting the V & A to shame

Marc Jordan on the National Portrait Gallery

This summer, the heritage world has again been agog at events at the Victoria and Albert Museum. First there was the unveiling of designs for a new £43 million building on its Boileau House site. It is possible that the glass-clad, fractured polygon designed by the Israeli architect Daniel Libeskind could be an ornament to London, but only on a site of its own, where it would be gallery and sculpture in one, like the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Inserted in the mellow Victorian terracotta of Exhibition Road, it would look plain silly. Then there was the series of mishaps that led to the National Heritage Memorial Fund acquiring the Beckett *chasse* on behalf of the V & A for £4 million, a year after it had been offered privately to the British Museum for half that amount.

Less widely noticed, perhaps because camouflaged by the predictable *brouhaha* over the glass polygon, was the decision of the museum's new director Alan Borg to replace the current "voluntary" entrance charge with a compulsory one of £5 from the beginning of next month. Let us hope that Dr Borg's move is a cry for help and not a statement of professional conviction, since the past decade has seen an overall 50 per cent upward trend in the numbers of visitors to non-charging national museums, and a matching decline in visits to those that do.

After this it is pleasant to turn to a more uplifting tale, albeit about a smaller and less grand institution, but one that is just as central to our cultural life. Tonight the National Portrait Gallery, whose director Charles Saumarez Smith recently reiterated his commitment to free entrance, opens its refurbished first-floor galleries, rehung with its 19th and earlier 20th-century collections. The project ought to be a cause for quiet satisfaction to Dr Saumarez Smith and the architect, Piers Gough. They have used the opportunity offered by building work necessary to renew the wiring, sprinklers and alarms to revive the mainly hidden 19th-century architecture of the existing rooms and to create an engaging new gallery within a neutral shell previously used for exhibitions.

Gough installed the Luyens exhibition in the Hayward Gallery in 1981 — one of the few occasions when that unlovely concrete bunker was a humane setting for art. He has brought a similarly restrained sense of theatre to his restoration of the old rooms at the Portrait Gallery, unblocking windows and removing 1970s plasterboard from archways, corridors and architraves, and hanging the walls with violet, burnt-orange and plum-coloured silks. The result is a dignified but far from oppressively historicist setting for Victorian worthies, who are cantilvered out from the walls in a very un-club-like way by the ingenious system Gough has devised to mitigate the effect of daylight falling from the side.

For the great, the good and the notorious of the first six decades of the 20th century, Gough has provided something quite different. To hide the new services, he has designed a swooping and curving ceiling that is reminiscent of a Thirties liner or the Festival of Britain. The room over which it presides is brightly lit by natural light from the tall windows overlooking Orange Street, and many of the pictures are hung on clear glass walls. The contrast with the enfilade of 19th-century galleries is quaint. But it is subtle and intelligent too, reflecting the uniquely romantic brand of modernism which in this country succeeded the public solemnity of the pre-1914 world.

The Portrait Gallery will not be resting on its laurels, however. Like everyone else, it has a millennium project — for which it is seeking a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Circumstances in the building have always been awkward: around 70 per cent of visitors see the ground floor, but not many reach the top.

Jeremy Dixon and Edward Jones, architects of the Royal Opera House redevelopment, have proposed to build a new wing on the only available site, a narrow backyard that separates the gallery from the National Gallery. It will provide a basement lecture theatre, a mezzanine gallery and a new top-floor gallery to display properly the fine Tudor collection, which includes the great Holbein cartoon of Henry VIII.

Above all, it includes a handsome and spacious new entrance hall leading from the Victorian one, with a glass-sided escalator rising directly to the top floor. And on the roof will be a café with a glass-fronted loggia giving panoramic views across the rooftops of the National Gallery to Trafalgar Square, Whitehall and Westminster.

Earlier this year the gallery launched its centenary appeal. If it can raise £4 million towards the £16 million needed to open this new building in January 2000, it is hopeful of £12 million of lottery money. So far there have been promises of £1.7 million. There are all sorts of reasons why the continuing expansion should be supported, not least because in this relativistic and integrationist age the collection tells the story of the achievements of English history and the people who were and are the achievers. And there is a fine architectural irony: while Dixon Jones's building will have a particularly elegant and satisfying interior, it will be enveloped on all four sides by existing buildings, and so have no exterior at all.

هكذا من الأصل



TAINTED GOLD

Switzerland's behaviour is unworthy of a democracy

The Foreign Office report on Nazi gold is a fascinating account of greed, deception and double-dealing half a century ago. It does not admit to any British conspiracy to hide ill-gotten ingots in the Bank of England. But it does point to an almost unconscionable delay in overcoming the legal and bureaucratic obstacles that stood between the Nazis' victims, or their heirs and representatives, and the money plundered from them to fund Hitler's war machine.

More damningly, it points to the outrageous refusal by Switzerland, by far the largest beneficiary of German gold exports, to hand over more than a fraction of the huge sum of booty hidden in Swiss vaults. The issue is certainly one which the Swiss, with their tidy habit of hiding away past embarrassments, want to forget. Malcolm Rifkind should tell them bluntly during his visit next week that their behaviour has been immoral, selfish and unworthy of a democratic nation. He should demand that they step up their half-hearted response to regular inquiries by Holocaust victims.

The Foreign Office report, drawn from documents already declassified, is a crisp and well-compiled historical survey. It highlights, with the help of historical distance, the two awkward issues the Allies had to face in their relations with the neutral countries both during and after the war. How could they limit the economic dealings between Nazi Germany and countries such as Sweden and Switzerland without infringing their neutral status? And what legal instrument could they use after Hitler's defeat to ensure restitution of the gold to its rightful owners?

Britain's Ministry of Economic Warfare knew that Switzerland, and to a lesser extent Sweden and Portugal, were vital sources of foreign currency, which Berlin bought with gold seized from Jewish families and businesses and melted down. It favoured a tough approach to the Swiss, warning them that they would have to answer to the Allies if they continued accepting gold seized from occupied Europe. The Bank of England, however, was more circumspect. It recognised that the gold was impossible to trace, that sanctions against the Swiss would backfire — the Allies also needed Swiss francs — and that the gold's owners would be almost impossible to trace later.

So it turned out. The Swiss, who heeded allied warnings only late in the war, denied at their first encounter with postwar negotiators that they held any looted gold. The lie was quickly detected. But when the miserly payment of 250 million Swiss francs was agreed, they were left with approximately seven-eighths of the Nazis' gold still in their vaults.

For the past 50 years, various groups have attempted to appeal to the Swiss conscience. Such a commodity appears to be in short supply in Zurich. The arbiters of Swiss banking secrecy rebuffed all attempts by survivors, Jewish groups and American congressional committees to reveal the full extent of their wartime gains. But repeated accusations that the Swiss have been laundering the money of crooks, drug-dealers and dictators as well as the Nazis have begun to have effect. Banking secrecy is not the steel door that it once was. The Swiss have accepted that their banks have no business living off the proceeds of crime, and in many cases now co-operate with international investigators.

That makes it all the more worrying that they have refused to open all the files on their wartime dealings. Repaying today's full value of the presumed gold holdings would indeed be very expensive. But if Switzerland, slowly inching out of its self-imposed international isolation, really wants to make amends for its ambiguous wartime behaviour, it should give free rein to the new commission of experts who will look into the dealings with Nazi Germany. Britain, as a member of the Tripartite Gold Commission, has a residual responsibility here. Mr Rifkind's talks with Flavio Cotti, his opposite number, would carry more weight if the Foreign Secretary could also announce that the British Government had found an appropriate home for its own holdings of Nazi gold forthwith.

THIS IS GOING TO HURT US

Parents should be allowed to use reasonable force

Growing up in a family is a dress rehearsal for adulthood in the wider world. The family has its own laws, its policemen, judges and jury (usually the same people) and its sanctions. In this structured environment, children learn about right and wrong, responsibilities and duties, sharing and altruism. Parents, in return for giving their offspring unconditional love and care, earn the right to act as enforcers of family law.

Into this microcosm of society the State intrudes at its peril. Only if parents are guilty of serious abuse or neglect should Government have a right to intervene. That is why there is such justified nervousness about the case of the 12-year-old boy who has taken his case to the European Commission of Human Rights, claiming that the Government failed to protect him against the corporal punishment of his stepfather.

Nobody denies that Government should protect children against sadistic physical abuse. It does so already: parents can be prosecuted for assault occasioning actual bodily harm. But they can defend themselves by showing that the punishment concerned constituted "reasonable chastisement". In this case, the stepfather was charged and acquitted, presumably because the jury thought the punishment was reasonable.

Like most hard cases, this one is very unusual. The punishment, a beating with a cane, was so severe that it needed hospital treatment. Yet the crime — trying to stab a brother with a kitchen knife — was also extremely serious. The boy's mother describes him as "totally out of control". His natural father is siding with him against the step-

father; so family politics may be a factor too.

Campaigners against corporal punishment see this case as a way of prising further open the door through which the State can enter the family home. They want all physical chastisement to be made illegal, as it is in six other European countries. But to equate a thrashing with a garden cane, which leaves weals for doctors to treat, with a smack on a toddler's bottom or hand is wilfully misleading. Most parents know that, as a last resort, a moderate smack can be a more effective, and less hurtful, form of discipline than a lengthy banishment from parental affection and attention.

It is true that adults are not allowed to smack each other. But children do not have identical rights: nor do they have identical responsibilities. Adults feed, house, finance and care for their children. And they protect them; so, like the police with the citizen, they have an asymmetrical relationship with their children.

Family dynamics would change if corporal punishment were made illegal. The natural parental authority without which a family cannot function would start to break down if children knew that they could threaten to report their parents to the police if the ultimate sanction were used. Already some pupils use the Children Act to intimidate their teachers. Classroom discipline has suffered as a result.

The existing law of assault should be adequate to deal with "cruel or unusual" beatings of children. It does not need to be changed to make the average, caring parent a criminal.

ALIEN CORN

All argument is against it, but all belief is for it

The British Association yesterday considered BSE, the blues that our prehistoric ancestors played on their flutes of bone and the paranormal. This last may seem an unprofessional topic for a gathering of scientists; but science is concerned with phenomena and no phenomenon should be alien to a scientist.

Indeed, the phenomenal cult popularity of such television programmes as *The X Files* and such films as *Independence Day* has attracted the attention of a discord of experts. So has the astonishing prevalence of the belief, not only in America, that a person has been abducted by aliens or has seen a UFO. Fox Mulder's office in *The X Files* is decorated with a fuzzy photograph of a UFO with the paranormal credo "I want to believe". His beautiful sidekick, Dana Scully, always seeks a rational explanation, but by the end of each episode she has to look at Mulder with a wild surmise, and accept the possibility of clandestine alien hokum. Thus yesterday the British Association materialised into the alien world of visitors from outer space, all said to be wearing even stranger things than the anoraks and tweed ties of the scientists' premier division.

Being scientists, they looked for a rational explanation for the irrational. A persuasive paper argued that "sleep paralysis" lies behind accounts of alien abduction and other such happenings. This phenomenon

happens when a person on the cusp of sleep lies semi-conscious and aware, but cannot move. Such people are experiencing the paralysis that normally occurs during dreaming, as a natural safety-belt to prevent us from acting out our dreams. And the beauty of this theory is that it offers a scientific explanation for not just the paranormal obsessions of today, but also for the ghosts of the past. Sleep paralysis might lie behind the medieval incubus which was supposed to have sexual intercourse with women in their sleep, and the succubus which performed a similar office upon men as they slept unable to defend themselves.

For a ghost is the outward and visible sign of an inward fear. Each age and culture finds the contemporary ghosts it needs to embody its fears. Old ghosts carried their heads under their arms or squeaked and gibbered in the Roman streets, wearing Shakespearian sheets. New ghosts are extraterrestrial homunculi, or mysterious flashing lights and ultra-technical sounds.

Sleep paralysis sounds reasonable. But it is a scientific explanation of experiences that are meant to resist science. Ghosts fear no scientific laws, nor do they care for popular applause. So true believers will not be put off by the British Association's rational explanations of their beliefs. They will still be obsessed by what they think they see standing behind the scientists.

Britain and EU at odds on Iraq

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, It is wholly misleading for Malcolm Rifkind to point a finger at M Chirac as the scapegoat for his own failure to achieve a unanimous, or even majority, EU decision in support of Washington's resort to military action against Iraq because of its recent armed incursions into the purported Kurdish "safe area" in the north of that country (report, September 9).

The unpalatable truth is that objections to, and misgivings about, the American response were and are widespread. The UN Security Council, including a majority of the five permanent members, and despite rigorous urgings by the UK, refused to endorse it or even condemn Iraq's action.

There was a similar negative reaction by the Arab League, including those member states which were part of the American-led coalition formed to counter Saddam's invasion of Kuwait — eg, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan.

As Sir Edward Heath has rightly emphasised, there is a general feeling of unease, and a need for elucidation about the sense and the motivation of the American bombardment of strategic air defence bases in the South of Iraq, as a relevant tactic in seeking to relieve the oppression of Kurds in the North. The inhabitants there have been engaged in an internecine civil war, with one side apparently favouring an accommodation with Baghdad and the other preferring ties with Iran, the other principal *bête noire* of the US.

Merits of the whole operation apart, there is surely something almost comic about the UK, with its long record of vetoing any and all EU votes whenever HMG feels its national interests are at stake, huffing and puffing when France adopts a similar stance.

Yours faithfully,
FREDERIC BENNETT,
Plas Cwmllucedog,
Aberarlled,
Nr Machynlleth, Powys,
September 9.

From Mrs Gillian Bardin

Sir, I wonder whether your readers are aware that the recent divergence in European attitudes over events in Iraq has been hailed here as a triumph for French diplomacy. "Fearless", "willing to stand alone" etc, and completely untroubled by the decision to try and establish a common front at the Euro-summit in Trieste.

Some sections of the British media have presented this decision as being aimed directly at John Major and timed with the exclusive aim of unsettling the Tory Party Conference.

When will Britain cease being paranoid over Europe? We too can be "fearless", "willing to stand alone" etc, and indeed we should be.

Yours sincerely,
GILLIAN BARDIN,
21 Rue Saint-Honoré,
78000 Versailles, France,
September 9.

From the Chairman of the Council of the International Institute for Strategic Studies

Sir, Elizabeth Young (letter, September 8) writes of a "consensus" critical of US missile attacks on Iraq at the recent conference of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Dresden.

May I point out that this institute does not express any collective opinion on matters within its purview. All views expressed by its members are individual opinions and do not carry any endorsement by the membership as a whole.

The issue of the missile attacks on Iraq was not part of the conference's agenda, which had been drawn up months ahead, and was not discussed in either than a cursory way in any of the plenary sessions of the conference.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT O'NEILL,
Chairman of the Council,
International Institute for Strategic Studies,
22 Tavistock Street, WC2,
September 8.

Cornwall's pride

From County Councillor Colin Lawry

Sir, Jenny Young (letter, September 9) advises our readers that Gwennap Pit is in Cornwall. Quite correct: it was there when I attended a service last month. However, as a Cornishman, I take exception to the heading you gave to her letter. "Wales: see England".

Like Wales, Cornwall has a proud Celtic tradition, a Brythonic Celtic language which is enjoying something of a revival, and increasing recognition within Europe and further afield as a region in its own right.

Unlike most regions of England, Cornwall has a flag of her own — the Cross of St Piran — and a constitutional position which creates at least ambiguity as to the role of the Crown and the Duchy of Cornwall. It deserves wider recognition as a Celtic nation, alongside our cousins in Wales, Brittany, Scotland, the Isle of Man and Ireland.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN LAWRY,
Cornwall County Council,
County Hall,
Truro, Cornwall,
September 9.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Church concerns raised in light of Runcie biography

From Mr Harry Adam

Sir, The speculation over the Prince of Wales's suitability to be Supreme Governor of the Church of England may well be justified (report, leading article and letters, September 10). However the Church of England hierarchy must proceed with the caution of those who live in glass houses, if it chooses to throw stones.

For the past two decades at least Church leaders have failed to provide the vision of leadership to inspire action at parish level, where issues of survival and growth are settled. Their inability to implement the ordination of women without an undignified squabble, and their inept handling of the Church Commissioners' debacle and its aftermath, have had a demoralising effect on congregations. A process of fragmentation has begun which will, in the absence of strategic leadership, lead to disintegration.

In this context it is hard to see how a disestablished Church of England, stripped of its privilege, could survive without a critical re-examination of its objectives and subsequent radical reform. Perhaps that is itself the strongest argument for disestablishment.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY ADAM,
41 Pilkington Avenue,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands,
September 10.

From the Chairman of
The Prayer Book Society

Sir, You quote Lord Runcie (September 9) as saying of The Prince of

Wales: "It would help if he loved the Church of England a bit more." Perhaps it would help if the Church was more loveable.

For thirty years or more it has alienated thousands of people who used to sit in its pews by trying to rid itself of the Book of Common Prayer.

The Prince of Wales, when presenting the prizes at the first of our Cranmer Awards in December 1989, said "I believe the Prayer Book is a glorious part of every English speaker's heritage".

I, for one, am grateful to Prince Charles for pointing out that

Our banalities are no improvement on the past: merely an insult to it and a source of confusion in the present.

In the case of our cherished religious writings, we should leave well alone, especially when it is better than well: when it is great.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. A. KILMISTER,
Chairman,
The Prayer Book Society,
St James Garlickhythe,
Garlick Hill, EC4,
September 9.

From the Reverend E. M. T. Underhill

Sir, A former archbishop feared being stabbed in the back by homosexual clergy (report, September 7); the constabulary expresses concern as videos of nude males are screened in Durham Cathedral (reports, September 7); and my bishop, along with many others, urges me to "foster vocations", as it is manpower and not money that is, it seems, now the most pressing

problem in the Church of England.

We need some 650 to 700 ordinands each year, but in 1994 just over 200 were recommended for training. There is clearly a correspondence between these matters.

Able men, and women, will not offer themselves for ordination into an ill-disciplined ministry in a Church that is obsessed with bureaucracy and centralisation and where bishops are wanting too much power.

The Church cannot have it all ways.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD UNDERHILL,
St George's Vicarage,
327 Durham Road,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear,
September 9.

From Mr Michael De-la-Noy

Sir, Clearly writing with first-hand knowledge, Lord Runcie's former chaplain, the Bishop of St Germans, tells us that Lord Runcie understood his lengthy taped conversations with his biographer were intended for use as "background information and scene-setting".

How is any biographer worth his salt expected to make use of such explosive material, freely given, as "background information"? There is no conceivable way he could have ignored the material presented to him on a plate.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL DE-LA-NOY,
c/o Jachinta Alexander Associates,
47 Emperor's Gate, SW7,
September 10.

Hospitals and social services under financial strain

From Professor Dame Margaret Turner Warwick

Sir, Jeremy Laurence's report, "Hospitals warn of second-rate care" (September 2), that the NHS Executive propose to switch control of funds for specialist advice and treatment at tertiary centres from health authorities to local hospitals is disturbing.

Funding of local secondary-care hospitals through contracts with local authorities is already under extreme financial pressure and so-called "cost improvement" levies have, over the years, largely eliminated any potential surpluses. Current local hospital budgets are thus very unlikely to be able to cover the cost of more specialised treatments when these are not available locally.

The critical question, therefore, is whether sufficient additional funds will be transferred to local hospitals to cover the cost of referrals of patients to tertiary centres. If not, and if these costs have to come from the local hospital's existing budgets, there will be a very strong incentive for doctors at these hospitals not to seek more specialised help for their patients and for local hospital management not to allow it. Many patients may thus be denied the specialist expert advice and treatments they need.

The implications are even more fundamental, however. Tertiary NHS specialist centres do much more than

provide a high-quality and cost-effective service for patients with complex conditions: because of their specialised facilities and experience, they also make a very important contribution to the research and development upon which medical advances depend — and upon which the NHS itself increasingly depends — and they play a significant role in the training of both generalist and specialist doctors.

If funding for these centres fails, either for direct or indirect reasons, patients of both today and tomorrow will suffer.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET TURNER WARWICK,
President, Royal College of Physicians, 1989-92,
Pynes House,
Thorverton, Exeter, Devon,
September 4.

From the Chair of the
Association of County Councils
and the Chief Executive of Mencap

Sir, We are now approaching the all-important negotiations over the public-spending round. We fear that, once again, community care services will be severely under-funded.

Currently, the Government makes an assumption that all local authority social services departments, regardless of local circumstances, will raise a proportion of their income by charging disabled and older people for care

services like home helps, assistance with bathing and dressing, and attendance at day centres.

At the same time the Government states that local authorities have the discretion to decide whether to charge for these services. Latest figures (1993-94) show 10 per cent of gross expenditure on personal social services was recouped by fees and charges.

We take exception to this. When such assumptions are made local authorities have no discretion: they are, in effect, forced to charge.

Most disabled and older people rely on state benefits. They are now paying twice, through payment of council tax and service charges for services which they desperately need, and there is increasing evidence of hardship.

The Coalition on Charging, made up of 24 charities and local authority associations, believes that national government should fund local government, in full recognition of jointly shared aspirations for community care, and that the requirement that income is raised through charges should be removed.

Yours etc,
JACK BURY,
Chairman of County Councils,
FRED HEDDELL,
Chief Executive, Mencap,
Coalition on Charging,
123 Golden Lane, EC1,
September 10.

Lollipops at work

From Mrs Carol Hill

Sir, A "left-of-centre think tank" suggests (report, early editions, September 2) that persistent car thieves should have to perform the duties of school crossing patrol officers (lollipop ladies/men).

I am a lollipop lady and mother of two and I care about the children who use my crossing to get to school. They trust me to keep them safe. Would their parents have confidence in a teenage joyrider, say, doing the job as a punishment?

Public car-washing, perhaps with wet sponges for victims to throw, would be a more fitting solution.

Yours faithfully,
C. HILL,
1 Pearl Road,
Middleleaze, Swindon, Wiltshire,
September 2.

From Mr M. Larkin

Sir, As a retired science teacher who has just launched himself on a new career as a lollipop-man, I was intrigued to see that my local authority contract states that I will be paid at the rate of £3.97667 per hour — a commendable degree of precision in a contractual agreement, of plus or minus half a thousandth of a penny.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
MICHAEL LARKIN,
11A St Osmonds Road,
Poole, Dorset,
September 5.

Tall story

From Mr Keith Chambers

Sir, I can understand Bob Prescott's alarm (letter today) on learning that "the tail of this aircraft is 52 feet above the ground" while on its flight to Manchester. I am similarly alarmed, when flying in America, to be informed that "we shall be in the air momentarily".

Yours faithfully,
KEITH CHAMBERS,
19 Hill Road,
Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire,
September 9.

Plutonium trade

From Mr Llew Smith, MP for Blaenau Gwent (Labour)

Sir, I was interested to read your Diplomatic Editor's report (September 3) on a new bilateral pact signed with Japan by the Foreign Secretary during his visit to the Far East.

The Anglo-Japanese "Action Agenda for a Special Partnership" commits both Governments, inter alia, to increasing co-operation on proliferation concerns, including export control policies. This is to be applauded, except that both Governments are also active supporters of nuclear commerce between the countries, including in weapons-usable plutonium, based on major Japanese contracts with the BNFL reprocessing plant at Sellafield.

At a meeting this week in Vienna of

the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the British Government is expected to break ranks with the Americans (contrary to the unique support offered this week over the bombing of Iraq) and support IAEA proposals to reduce the stringent safety standards applied to the air shipment of plutonium. This will make the return of plutonium to Japan cheaper, but more hazardous.

I cannot see how the Foreign Secretary and Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda can reconcile the expansion of commerce in plutonium at the same time as they are backing tougher export control policies to counter proliferation.

Yours sincerely,
LLEW SMITH,
House of Commons,
September 9.

Wardour Castle

From Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC

Sir, In your article on the restoration of Wardour Castle, "Restoration drama" (Property, August 31), you quote Mr Tiersley, the developer, as saying that his plans to build new houses in the grounds "were fully provided for in Lord Rawlinson's lease".

The Dover House, my principal objection to the developer's plans, was not "provided for" in my lease in its finalised form. Indeed, the present stinging was only decided upon by the developer many months after I had entered into occupation.

You state that English Heritage is "broadly" in favour of the plans. So they are, but not the Dover House, whose site and scale and impact on the historic landscape and building they criticise.

Yours faithfully,
RAWLINSON,
Wardour Castle,
Nr Tisbury, Wiltshire,
September 3.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Celibacy of priests

From the Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales

Sir, I must take issue with your report today on the current meeting of the National Conference of Priests in Birmingham.

We have gathered to explore ways of exercising our ministry more effectively. And so we examine problem areas. But we have not said that morale among priests is low; rather we have studied issues like overwork and the scarcity of priests which can damage morale.

Individual priests may have identified former Anglican married clergy who are to be ordained within our Catholic tradition as a cause of low morale, but the conference has not done so. On the contrary, the group discussing celibacy affirmed: "We welcome the recent admission of married men to the priesthood and the experience they bring". And it asked for further reflection on the "implications for mandatory celibacy at having both married and celibate priests".

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK STRANGE, Chairman,
National Conference of Priests of England and Wales,
As from: English Martyrs Presbytery,
St Georges Road, Wallasey, Wirral,
September 5.



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
September 10: The Queen was represented by the Lady Farnham (Lady of the Bedchamber) at the Service of the National Osteoporosis Society's launch of the booklet, "Fit but Fragile", at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 10: The Princess Royal, patron, this morning attended the launch of Victim Support's report on Children in Court at Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, Prince of Wales, visited the Children's Fund, this

afternoon visited Asprey's design studio and workshop at 165-169 New Bond Street, London W1.

The Princess Royal later attended the National Osteoporosis Society's launch of the booklet, "Fit but Fragile", at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1.

The Royal Highness, President, Royal Yachting Association, this evening attended the Central Management Committee Dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London SW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 10: The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon attended a service to mark the Bicentenary of the birth of William Marsden, the founder of the Royal Free Hospital, at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, London EC4.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons' Circle, will visit the Leeds Beeston Youth School, Cross Flats Primary School, Leamington Spa, at 11.00, will visit the Leeds Beeston Youth and Community Development Centre, Cross Flats Park, Harlech Road, at 11.45; as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will visit the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, Granary Building, 1 Canal Wharf, at 12.35; will visit the Penrhyn Bowling Club for the Visually Handicapped at Welham Park, Brighouse, West Yorkshire, at 2.00; and as President of the Chartered Institute of Transport, will attend the joint meeting with the Royal Aeronautical Society entitled "Civil Tilt Rotor Aircraft" at the Civil Aviation Authority headquarters at Gatwick Airport at 6.20.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the new buildings at the Essex and Suffolk Water Company's treatment works, South Harlingfield, at 10.55; and will visit the preparatory school at Brentwood School, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex, at 12.15.

Stationers and Newspaper Makers

The Educational Charity of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company is offering major awards to young persons engaged in printing and allied trades, bookbinding and paper conservation, stationery, papermaking, publishing, bookbinding and newspaper production. Previous awards have averaged £2,000.

The awards are open to United Kingdom residents engaged in the occupations associated with the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company's industries as listed above. The awards will be made to persons who are not more than 25 years of age on May 1, 1997.

The object is to enable young persons to develop their careers by extending their knowledge in the areas of management and technology in a way that would not be possible unless these awards were available.

Completed application forms should be submitted by December 31, 1996 and further details and application forms can be obtained from: The Secretary, The Educational Charity of the Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Company, Ingleswood, Oving, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP22 4HD (telephone 01296 441838 or fax 01296 441839).

Memorial service

Lady (Desmond) Fitzpatrick
The Queen was represented by Lady Farnham and the Duke of Edinburgh by Lieutenant Colonel Conway Seymour at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lady (Desmond) Fitzpatrick held yesterday in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks.

The Prince of Wales was represented by Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir William Rous and the Grand Duke of Luxembourg by Brigadier Christopher Wolverson.

The Rev Leslie Bryan officiated. Mr Brian Fitzpatrick, son, read the lesson and Canon J.C.M. Murphy gave an address. The Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk was represented by Captain R.J. Sheepshanks. Among others present were:

General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick (husband), Mr and Mrs Stewart Fitzpatrick (son-in-law and daughter), Major-General Lord Michael Fitzpatrick (brother), Mrs Michael Fitzpatrick (sister), Mrs John and Lady Helen Fitzpatrick (sister-in-law).

General Sir Thomas and Lady Pearson, General Sir Brian and Lady Pearson, General Sir Robert and Lady Pearson, General Sir John and Lady Pearson, General Sir John and Lady Pearson, General Sir John and Lady Pearson.

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Dr Dreena Kelly, 37, who has just qualified as a doctor, was named Woman of the Nineties 1996 yesterday. Dr Kelly, a single parent from Maryhill, Glasgow, won the Good Housekeeping magazine award for her ability to combine a demanding career with a fulfilling family and personal life. Completely financing herself for two years of her five-year course, she had to work as a nurse at night. She also spent many hours looking after her disabled wheelchair-bound sister.

'Traffic lights' speed pipers on their way

THE Eden Court Theatre in Inverness is in many ways the envy of other piping events, since all the competitions can be held under one roof and tuning facilities are near to where the performer will play (Angus Nicol writes). But even so, many competitors, at the highest and lowest levels, spend quite some time tuning their pipes out of tune and then bringing them slowly back, not always quite accurately, into tune. At Inverness, controlled by a system of angry warning orange and red lights, tuning is strictly limited to five minutes. This can shorten a competition by an hour or two.

The first day of the Northern Meeting piping competitions began with the Highland Society of London's Gold Medal, first presented in succession to the Prize Pipe, in 1887. There was a capacity entry of 30, though one tuner, a not unlikely winner, decided not to attend. It was noticeable that there were one or two competitors whose performance was not quite up to what is expected at Gold Medal level.

However, there were other tunes that were worth listening to. Sergeant Wilson Brown won the Gold Medal, playing the nameless tune of which the annual march of his first bar is *Hilmarin dro a dro*. Whether *The Old Man of the Shells* (or *Bodach dubha nan Slighe*) refers to the copious use of scallop shells as drinking vessels, or to a battle at Sligachan, is not known. It is a well-known classic, and was played by Pipe-Major Brian Donaldson, Scots Guards, to win second prize.

Donald MacBride, playing the *Lament for Captain MacDougall*, came third. Major David MacCrimmon's *Sweetheart*, brought the fourth prize to Niall Matheson. In fifth place, John Angus Smith gave a beautiful performance of *Isabel MacKay*.

though on a pipe perhaps not quite man enough for the job. The set tunes for the Silver Medal were, as always, the same as at Oban. John Patrick took the Silver Medal, thereby qualifying to enter for the Gold Medal. He played *Orain in Hides and Corn* (Archibald the Grim), eighth Earl of Argyll, was created first and only Marquis of Argyll in 1641, only to lose his head in 1661 for treason. *The Marquis of Argyll's Salute* was mostly composed between 1641 and 1650. Niall Stewart played the tune for second prize. Douglas Murray came third, with *Melbank's Salute*. A rarely heard tune, *All the Old Men Paid Rent* by Roy, was played by Andrew Hayes for fourth prize. Allan MacColl took fifth prize. *MacColl's Lament*.

The March competition, both A and B grade, took place on the first day. There were 45 entries for the A grade, so a short list of 10 played for the prizes. Scott Drummond won first prize. In the B grade, Paul Ritchie was the winner.

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Forthcoming marriages

Mr G.E. Andree and Miss V.J. Clive
The engagement is announced between Giles, son of the late Mr John Andree and Mrs Andree, of Sandbanks, Dorset, and Victoria, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs David Clive, of Ewelme, Oxfordshire.

Mr P. Assombe and Miss K.L. McKenzie
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of the late Mr Edward Assombe and of Mrs Joyce Assombe, of Wadhurst, East Sussex, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon McKenzie, of Box Head, East Sussex.

Mr A.R.J. Barnett and Ms S.J. Hart
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.R.J. Barnett, of Fareham, Hampshire, and Sara, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Dowell, of Melksham, Wiltshire.

Mr D. Bloom and Miss S. Toddman
The engagement is announced between David, only son of Mr and Mrs Leon Bloom, of Melbourne, Australia, and Samantha, elder daughter of Mr Jonathan Toddman, of Somerset, and Mrs S. Toddman, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr N.B. Holliday and Miss C.L.R. Stephens
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Dr and Mrs Michael Holliday, of Canterbury, Kent, and Cecily, daughter of Dr and Mrs C.L.R. Stephens, of Shropshire, and of the late Mrs Cynthia Stephens.

Mr P.W. Naim and Miss K.L. Pomphrey
The engagement is announced between Peter, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bill Naim, of Melbourne, Australia, and Susannah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Pomphrey, of Felstead, Essex.

Mr D. Glazebrook and Miss R. Bowles-Lyon
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 8, at All Saints' Church, Paul's Walk, of Dr David Glazebrook, elder son of Mr and Mrs Ben Glazebrook, and Miss Rosie Bowles-Lyon, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Bowles-Lyon. The Rev Dr Alan Winton officiated.

The bride was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids, including the Hon George Bowles-Lyon, Hughie Pike and Andrew Pike. Mr Robert Diggle was best man.

A reception was held at St Paul's Waldenbury, home of the bride, and the honeymoon is being spent in Morocco.

Mr N.P. Hoare and Miss M.L.A. Hamill-Stewart
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 31, 1996, at St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, London, of Mr Nicholas Hoare, son of the late Mr C.S. Hoare and of Mrs I.P. Hoare, of Melksham, Hampshire, and Miss M.L.A. Hamill-Stewart, daughter of Mr and Mrs Hamill-Stewart, of Mougins, France.

The bride was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids, including the Hon George Bowles-Lyon, Hughie Pike and Andrew Pike. Mr Robert Diggle was best man.

A reception was held at St Paul's Waldenbury, home of the bride, and the honeymoon is being spent in Morocco.

Major D.A.G. Madden and Miss P.J. Rogers
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 31, at the Church of St Martin-in-the-Field, Surrey, of Major David Madden, son of Mr and Mrs P.J. Rogers, and Miss P.J. Rogers, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Rogers, of Canterbury, Kent. The Rev Jeremy Collingwood officiated, assisted by the Rev Ronald La Marche.

The bride was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids, including the Hon George Bowles-Lyon, Hughie Pike and Andrew Pike. Mr Robert Diggle was best man.

A reception was held at Chilworth Manor and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

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School news

Arnold School, Blackpool
The Autumn Term commenced on Tuesday, September 3, and will end on Thursday, December 19, 1996. The European Theatre Company will give a performance of the German play *Die Physiker* by Dürrenmatt, on Monday, October 14, starting at 7.30pm. The College Choir will be competing in the Semi Final of Sainsbury's Choir of the Year Competition at Buxton Opera House, on Saturday, November 23. The Final will take place on Sunday, November 24, at the same venue. There will be a Combined Concert with Cheltenham College and St Edward's, performing Mozart's *Requiem* at Cheltenham College Chapel on Friday, November 29, at 7.30pm. The Christmas Concert will take place on Friday, December 13, in the Princess Hall at 7.30pm. Term ends on Saturday, December 14.

Ellesmere College
Michaelmas term at Ellesmere College began on September 8. The school is co-educational through the 9-18 age range for the first time. Mr and Mrs Martin Clewlow become Housemaster and Housemistress of the newly-opened Middle School, Cheltenham. St Aidan's, Claire Lamont and Andrew Quinlan are Captains of School. Harry Murray is Captain of Rugby and Olivia Russell is Captain of Girls' Hockey. Mr Andrew Corbett, Mr Peter Hayes, Mrs Mary Smith and Mr P. Williams join the teaching staff. The installation of the new Headmaster, Mr Brendan Wignall, will take place at the College on September 20. Old Ellesmerians wishing to attend dinners in Michaelmas term, 1996, in the Princess Hall at 7.30pm (November 6) or 5.15pm (November 29) should contact the school. No 526679.

Blundell's
Term began at Blundell's on September 4 when 176 new pupils joined the school, bringing the roll to a total of 440. Mr David Jewell (OB), Chairman of the Governors, opened the Junior Department, which accommodates 11-13 year old boys and girls in School House. Mr and Mrs Peter Lanfer have retired from being House Parents of School House and have been succeeded by Mr and Mrs John Bridgen as Heads of the Junior Department. There will be an Open Morning for prospective parents of all ages at 10.00am on Saturday, September 14. The Sixth Form Scholarship examinations are on November 18 and 19, with further awards at 11-13 and 14 in Music, Art and CDT will be available in February and March of 1997. The School Play is Tony Harrison's *Mysteries* on November 25-30, whilst School House's first dramatic production will be a musical, *Kindred Spirits*, on December 9 and 10. The School Concert is on December 7 and the annual visit of the Allegri Spring Quartet is on November 23. The Heads of School are Harriet Chubb (NC) and Alex Gordon (P).

The Cheltenham Ladies' College
Term begins today at The Cheltenham Ladies' College with an address in Opening Prayers by the new Principal, Mrs Vicky Tuck. Half term is from 5.00pm on Friday, October 25, until Sunday, November 3 (inclusive). Samantha Skinner is Senior Prefect and Second Head of College is Ruth Cusickin. The College Service will take place at 10.00am on Sunday, September 15. The preacher will be Professor Russell Stannard. On Friday, October 11, and Saturday, October 12, The Cheltenham Ladies' College will host The Star Fair, in aid of the National Star Centre and The College Bursaries Fund. A Grand Reception and Service in Cheltenham Chapel at 2.00pm on December 11, followed by a Christmas Fair at School. Old Girls Day will be on September 29, 1996.

Pangbourne College
The Michaelmas Term started at Pangbourne College with its first intake of girls after going fully co-educational on Thursday, September 5. The Chief Cadet Captain of the College is Alexander Stannard. The School Play will be on December 11, 12, 13 and Cadet Services on December 17. Term ends on December 18.

Priory Field School
Term started on Wednesday, September 4. Mikla Lawrence is Head Girl and Abigail George is Deputy. Term ends with the Cadet Service in Cheltenham Chapel at 2.00pm on December 11, followed by a Christmas Fair at School. Old Girls Day will be on September 29, 1996.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS
WELSHMAN - On 9th September, 1996, to Margaret (née Mackenzie) and James Peter Kenneth, a brother for Rachel.

BIRTHS
ALLEN - On September 4th at the Portland Hospital, Dorset, Melissa and Shweta, a handsome first born son, Kyle.

BIRTHS
BEAMISH - On August 30th 1996, in the American British Cordway Hospital, Mexico City, to Antonio (né Cervera) and Anna, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

BIRTHS
ROSCAMON - On September 4th 1996, to Elizabeth (née Brunner) and Timothy, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth.

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DEATH

Programme makers cater to nostalgia for a lost world

Cooking for kitchen voyeurs

Mum! "Ooooh!" "Whew!" "Wonderful! Wonderful!" The orgasmic squeals and moans issuing from Loyd Grossman and company on BBC1 on Sunday would have done for Channel 4 after midnight. But they passed muster as daytime fare, for the stimulants were merely the *Junior Masterchef's* scallop-stuffed ravioli and caramelised pear tart with mulled-wine ice cream.

It's not the sensuous presentation of food on television that makes me squirm. Rather, it's the pretence that viewers are watching for culinary instruction. The shows are daytime pornography. All these gorgeous televised goodies are being consumed by a nation of voyeurs: people who get their gustatory kicks from watching other people cook but don't actually do it themselves.

There are exceptions, of course. I myself have occasionally been tempted to try pounding rosemary, garlic and anchovies into the smooth paste as seen on the screen. But the audience before whom these demonstrations are performed consists in no small part of students in bedsits, pensioners and unemployed men. They would no more try "Ragout of Ravishing Mustard-Tart" at home than they would try to make binoculars out of toilet rolls.

How come? Nostalgia. Hunger for a lost world, a golden age of home-peeled spuds and hand-wring chickens. Sitting there alone with a bag of crisps watching *Simply Delicious with Family and Friends* (this series starts on Carlton tomorrow with potatoes) is as sentimental an exercise as watching *Sense and Sensibility*.

That people are not eating family meals any more bodes ill for the future of the sitcom. The table is centrepiece of the old family comedy: the place where all the characters interact. The teenagers rebel, the mother (who is also the cook) cajoles, the father lays down the law and looks a buffoon. This tradition, going back to the days of Andy Hardy films and *I Love Lucy*, is being kept alive, as I have pointed out before, by that deeply moral cartoon strip, *The Simpsons*. The Simpsons eat together — two courses, if memory serves: dessert is part of the ritual of the old American way of life.

As a dramatic focal point, the dining table is hard to beat. As *The Last Supper* demonstrates, it gets all the principal players in the same tight shot. But it is hard to find characters in today's realistic soap operas eating together round the same board. These people snack rather than eat. Accordingly, the dramatist resorts to the diner, the café counter and the pub to bring them together

and to show that, like the earlier counterparts, they do occasionally need to eat.

Australian soaps make a lot of the kitchen — characters in *Neighbours* and *Home and Away* seem always to be opening the fridge, but only as an activity incidental to talking about relationships. Consumption tends to take place either standing or in coffee bars.

Yet even though modern Britain consumes its food in haste and in solitude, the television time devoted to its preparation continues to increase. Last week, Carlton Television launched a cable network devoted entirely to food. The advantages to the makers of such programmes is obvious. They are cheap, fill those omnivorous hours in the daytime schedule and offer extra income for broadcaster and presenter alike, from the sale of magazines and cookbooks.

It's all hard on the viewers, though, tempted by these mountains of glorious food, then, if they watch ITV, to sign up for Weight Watchers or buy some low-calorie product. This conflict between the unreality of the cookery programmes and the fast-food realism of the soap operas can have only one result: guilt. Step forward Jancis Robinson, with *The Food Chain*. This new BBC2 series finds us all guilty.

For wanting processed food and for not asking enough about how it gets to us, Robinson even got a grim-faced expert last week to say that as a result, we are worse fed as a nation than during the Great Depression.

At best, this new puritanism is pointless. Thanks to the BSE crisis, we are all too aware of the contents of the tasty pie and burger. At worst, the sermon is misleading. The growth and distribution of food is one of the areas of life where there has been genuine progress.

What we need is not more antifood propaganda but more reminders of the joys of convenience food. We need to teach the young that, rather than stuffing themselves on crisps, they should microwave some *pasta arrabbiata* instead. The new galloping gourmet should be a single parent or a working mother, who will remind those who don't know what women had to do in the past to put three meals a day on the table. She should also say a good word for mass-production, and recall the not-distant days when the most common association with the word "chicken" was not "battery-reared" but "Sunday". As for the disappearance of the mealtime, eating out has never been cheaper. There is no more binding experience for a family than to dine out together. The French learnt that long ago.



BRENDA MADDOX

Poster that failed to please

AS Lord Runcie keeps the nation rapt by his reflections on the Prince of Wales and Lady Thatcher, *The Listener* can bring you news of more discord within the Church of England.

It seems that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York were not the only ones displeased by the Churches Advertising Network's (CAN) daring choice of Christmas poster campaign this year. The CAN also incurred the disapproval of the mighty Sir Cliff Richard.

Their poster, a trendy affair featuring the slogan "Bad Hair Day? You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up", was criticised for being inappropriate to the spirit of Christmas and appealing to job culture. Unbeknown to most, however, this was not



Cliff: No to poster plan

CAN's first choice. Among seven other versions attempted was a poster featuring a picture of the celebrity Christian beneath the words "Hard Luck Cliff, Jesus is Number One this Christmas".

All was ready to run until the organisation dutifully checked with Sir Cliff and found he did not like it. As a result, it was decided not to go ahead with that particular poster.

FOR reasons best known to itself, LIVE TV has taken to sending out free novelty car stickers in an effort to grab those ever-elusive viewers. In a project codenamed *Rear Win-*

dow Wisdom, the management invites you to place one of 12 squirmingly crass slogans in your car, resulting in free advertising for them and total ridicule for you.

Among the sub *My-other-car's-a-Rolls-Royce* species of stickers are "I still miss my ex but my aim is improving", "If you think education is expensive try ignorance" and "My wife said if I don't quit fishing she's going to divorce me".

One of the slogans, however, could have some prophetic value for the struggling station and Mirror Group shareholders. It reads "Get even — die in debt."

Rosie hue

THE *Independent* on Sunday's courtship of Rosie Boycott is now reaching epic proportions. For months now the formidable ambitious editor of *Esquire* magazine has been wooed and dined by the Sindy's management, allegedly with the post of editor in mind, but a pass has yet to be made. One thing is for certain, Mrs Boycott, who launched *Spare Rib*, the radical feminist magazine, would have given up the rather gloomy offices at Canary Wharf.

What could be delaying matters is the popularity of the current editor Peter Wilby. The paper does not want to risk losing even more staff and Wilby is one of the few reasons they have to stay.

THE ad men at Richard Branson's Virgin Radio are a suspicious bunch. They immediately jumped to conclusions after a bus shelter



Branson: Ad men jump

which they planned to use in a promotional shoot was vandalised. The Adshel bus shelter just happens to be outside the headquarters of their main rival, London's Capital Radio. Judging by a press release

they sent out publicising the matter, Virgin's men are obviously in no doubt as to the culprit. "It just seems a bit of a coincidence that the very site at which we planned to launch our campaign happened to be under Capital's noses, and that when we arrived it had been expertly taken apart", said Andy Mollett, the station's finance director.

Pud rising

PROFESSIONAL Yorkshireman though he is, Michael Parkinson can clearly still learn a thing or two from the pensioners in white rose county. The nation's favourite chat show host, who pens a monthly column for *Saga*, the magazine for the elderly, was clearly struck for something to write about, so turned his attention to that old favourite, Yorkshire puddings.

His piece gave rise to no fewer than 79 letters of complaint from the readers. "Please inform Michael Parkinson that making Yorkshire puddings with self-raising flour is tantamount to saying that Fred Trueman bowled for Lancashire," scolded Mrs M. Collier, of Beverley, Humbershire. "Use plain."

You can put your shirt on Cantona



Eric Cantona is much in demand

ERIC CANTONA seems to be everywhere but on the football pitch at the moment. He is either seen fronting Nike's advertising, cropping up in commercials for Eurostar or now, it emerges, starring in an ad for Celine.

The star is evidently so expensive that the agency, the McWilliams Partnership, could not afford the man himself. However, they used his trademark No 7 top in an ad for the launch of Celine's special Manchester United-branded mobile phone.

The shirt is featured in press work and on posters emblazoned with the slogan "Ooh, aah can fone ya" — a "cheesy but effective" adaptation of the legendary Cantona chant, claims a spokesman. Given the overuse of the French celebrity, perhaps it is more a case of "Ooh, aah gone too far".

THERE is a worrying trend emerging in adland. An increasing number of design companies are, to quote one

ADVERTISING

distressed insider, "parking their tanks on agencies' front lawns."

The concern is over the apparent surge in client companies forcing agencies to share advertising contracts with design outfits. Some are even bypassing agencies altogether and awarding the design experts their entire advertising business.

Saatchi and Saatchi recently had its nose put out by Wolff Olins, which was heavily involved in the "Give me 5" returning campaign for Channel 5. Another company, Identica, is also said to be working uncomfortably closely with Bartle Bogle Hegarty on the relaunch of Mercury One 2 One.

And now Lambie-Nairn, the TV ident specialists, have just beaten Bates Communications to the advertising business for EBN, the cable and satellite TV station.

The win marks Lambie-Nairn's first

significant foray above the line. It is also the "start of further similar developments of existing clients," according to Lambie-Nairn's head of marketing, David Robinson.

ONE of the nation's most successful advertising icons, Direct Line's red telephone, could be facing an untimely demise.

The insurance company is reviewing its £13 million advertising business, now housed at the Wonderbra-to-Nissan shop, TBWA. TBWA is being given the chance to defend its role, but will be battling against Mellors Reay and Partners and Mortimer Whitaker O'Sullivan.

Despite the rethink, the red phone, complete with wheels and somewhat distressing jingle, has been a scowaway success — for the company — if a little embarrassing for the creative snobs down at TBWA.

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- the management of the College's millennium appeal
- the development, co-ordination and organisation of all the College's promotional activities and those of the Old Cheltonians
- the promotional housing of all the College's and Old Cheltonians publications
- the highlighting and maintenance of the College's profile in the media, both national and local
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- the management of the Registrar's office

The successful candidate will be a central figure in the development of the College, working closely with the Headmaster and the Common Room. He or she will have excellent interpersonal skills and the ability to build confidence and inspire people.

Applications in writing, with a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, to: The Headmaster, Cheltenham College, Bath Road, Cheltenham, Glos., GL53 7LD. Tel: 01242 513540. Fax: 01242 255550. Closing date for applications: 30th September 1996

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هكذا من الأصل

Spin-doctors and the credibility gap

Although I have never been known as a sensitive plant, I must confess to some distress at being called a spin-doctor — or, more properly, an ex-spin-doctor. This is not because it is now a term of abuse. Anyone who has been called a sewer — as I was by John Biffen who carefully distinguished me from the sewage I was supposed to carry — tends to find that much that is subsequently thrown at them is relatively complimentary.

I am distressed because I have never practised as a spin-doctor and never regarded myself as one. I therefore feel I owe it to my former colleagues in the Government Information Service (GIS), which I led for a couple of years, and responsible PROs in the wider public relations industry to protect them from guilt by association with this import from North America. I can best do so by defining what is and what is not a spin-doctor.

The 1,200 or so members of the GIS come nowhere near qualifying. Their two prime functions are to promote an informed public, mainly through the press, radio and television, about the Government's policies and measures and to advise ministers and officials on their presentation.

Of course they seek to put the best possible gloss on the works of the Government of the day, consistent with the facts — in so far as they can be established — and reality. They try to engineer opportunities for their minister to argue the case for his policies and measures and to defend them when under attack.

They also seek to preserve their minister's freedom of manoeuvre by avoiding, if at



At the Edinburgh Television Festival a session was set aside to debate the growing efforts of spin-doctors to influence news reports. Yesterday the Freedom Forum discussed whether spin-doctors were 'Feeding the Press or Starving the Public'. Here, Sir Bernard Ingham, the man Lady Thatcher called "the best press secretary in the world", gives his definition of a spin-doctor

all possible, the premature disclosure of information. But they operate under one overriding constraint: their personal credibility.

Press secretaries, as members of the GIS, have chosen to make a profession out of spokespersonship. Their licence to operate is their credibility as reliable informants. It takes years to build up that credibility. It can be destroyed in one careless moment.

They seek at all times to defend their credibility. It is this — their longer term approach to their job — which partly distinguishes them from mere spin-doctors.

But they are also set apart, even from private sector public relations, by being precluded from promoting their minister's image and political fortunes. They have, of course, to take account of their minister's strengths and weaknesses for these can get in the way of conveying the message.

For example, I could never

ignore Margaret Thatcher's remarkable ability to appear hard and uncaring in advising her how to present a case. But I was not there to destroy her iron Lady image. I may well have enhanced it by the confidence with which I represented her position. But that was not the objective of the exercise. My briefing reflected the reality of her constancy and strength of purpose. She lost or gained incidentally.

All political parties have long accepted that good presentation by the official machine may bring the Government a political bonus. But opposition parties will only continue to acquiesce in it if they are satisfied that it arises incidentally from the work of civil servants paid by the taxpayer.

The third distinguishing feature between the GIS and spin-doctors is their role in fashioning policy. Generally, the GIS's job is to present a given line, programme or measure. Their presentational advice may refine it and occasionally they may in-



Labour leader Tony Blair with spin-doctor Peter Mandelson, MP. Spin doctors claim personality, image and policy are their core business

advertently make policy through their briefings. But they are not primarily there to devise policy.

Spin doctors on the other hand, claim personality, image and policy to be their core businesses. Peter Mandelson MP and a certain Dick Morris, now fallen from White House grace after a much-publicised encounter with a prostitute, are clearly identified in these ways respectively

with Labour leader Tony Blair and President Clinton.

Indeed, Mr Morris is described as "the architect of the new Clinton" much as, I suspect, an unblinking Mr Mandelson would claim to be the inspiration behind "New Labour". Spin-doctors are thus partisan, political operators with a communications background and an inclination to play Svengali. They see politicians and their programmes

as "products". They devise marketing campaigns for those products much as they would flog cornflakes or Wonderbras and they measure their success in publicity. How else can you explain the Tories' perseverance with their "demon eyes" advertising?

On the evidence provided by Mr Morris, spin-doctors also believe that they can turn water into wine. Who else would have had the gall to

work on Bill Clinton? Who else — Mr Blair apart — would have had Mr Mandelson's temerity to refashion the old socialist, profligate Labour Party after Maggie's financially prudent, enterprise Tories? This is not a trade for modest, sensitive men.

Nor do they have much to do with political philosophy. In fact, the fewer a political leader's beliefs, the more he needs a spin-doctor to make

up for his deficiency — and the greater the spin-doctor's opportunity since his principal brings little baggage to the party. We thus see that spin-doctors have little in common with self-effacing GIS press secretaries. They seek to create a new reality while press officers cope with the here and now. They reflect the prevailing dearth of ideology.

They are perhaps an index of political poverty.

Jennai Cox asks why feminine competition is excluded from media sports coverage and finds that male attitudes are to blame

Why women don't make the back page

In the run-up to the Olympics in Atlanta, Newsweek said: "Female athletes are the ones to watch". And for a few days they were.

But now, with Atlanta a distant memory, the media has returned to its "all-male-the-time" policy or, to coin an American phrase, "symbolic annihilation" — the killing of coverage of female sports.

This is the view of author and former US athlete Mariah Burton Nelson whose new book bemoans the media's systematic neglect of female sport. Ms Burton Nelson tells how she once perused the newspapers as a basketball player in the Seventies. "I'd scrutinise the sports pages, hoping to see something I could relate to," she says. "I almost never did."

Girls reading sports pages today have the same experience, she claims, and because there is so little with which to identify they think that women do not compete much. Her book, *The Stronger Women Get The More Men Love Football*, published recently, complains that at best the media minimises female competitive sport and, at worst, ignores it. It argues that the coverage of sport is one of the last areas of male dominance. "Nowhere are women

as under-represented as they are in the sports pages, and nowhere are women so systematically thrust into feminine, sexual roles."

Even during the Atlanta games there was an attempt, she says, to trivialise female sports. "There were a lot of

gymnasts and swimmers wearing leotards and swimsuits, but very little coverage of team games."

Professor Margaret Talbot, head of sport at Leeds Metropolitan University, claims the portrayal of women's sport has long been conditional on

them looking like girls. "There seems to be an unease about seeing women achieving and striving. Women are expected to conform to a strong feminine stereotype," she said.

Swimmers fall within acceptable female behaviour,

whereas female soccer is always seen as an inferior version to male football. "None of which corresponds with reality. There is plenty of evidence to show many people prefer female tennis," Professor Talbot says.

Ms Burton Nelson believes most women ignore newspaper sport thinking it is not important. They are mistaken, she says, and need to be aware that "men feel threatened that women's performance in sport is improving."

In the last century there were concerted attempts by the establishment to stop women playing sports. *The Birmingham Daily Mail* in 1881 described women's cricket as "essentially a male game" which "can never be played properly in petticoats" and pleaded with them not to enter this "insane physical rivalry with men". These days, says Ms Burton Nelson, the coverage is controlled, instead.

Television commentators and newspaper sports editors in America are still predominantly men who favour the sports in which males dominate — just eight per cent of

coverage is of women's sports. The situation is similar here. ITV and Channel 4 broadcast mainly horse racing, American football, rugby, boxing and motor racing; most BBC sport is male-dominated and while satellite channels have greater variety the flagship programme on Sky Sport is Premiership football.

Fewer women write about sports than any other popular media subject, despite quite recently showing more interest in sports journalism. "Men can no longer say sport is masculine. Millions of girls are playing, coaching and a lot are now writing about it," says Ms Burton Nelson. She quotes Kate Callen, a former sports editor, who thinks because they are not dazzled by the stars, women can make better sports writers.

The sports editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, Colin Gibson, also said female sports reporters may be known as "fluffies", but because of their isolation from the pack they learn to develop their own style. Steve Pinder, a sports journalism lecturer at

City University, agrees. "Each year more women choose the sports specialism. They bring a fresh eye to the subject whereas the men tend to have set ideas," he says.

During television and radio phone-ins to promote another of her books about the achievements of female athletes, Ms Burton Nelson was constantly told by men: "Yes, but a woman will never play pro football." As more women play "male sports" she believes they might.

An estimated 20,000 women play football in the UK and a recent international game against Portugal drew an audience of 2,000, many of whom were men, according to the Football Association. William Hill has taken bets from mothers on their daughters playing for England and it is not inconceivable, says Graham Sharpe of the bookmakers, that a women's FA Cup final will one day pack Wembley. That will give everyone something to read in the sports pages.



Ladies' cricket thrives but they were told in 1881 "end this insane rivalry with men"

Authors outdo reporters in newspaper circulation war

Newspapers are written by journalists but it is often the authors of books who beat Fleet Street's ace reporters and get the best stories. That has been well demonstrated this week by the serialisation in *The Times* of Humphrey Carpenter's biography of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie.

According to the *Daily Mirror*, the explosive political book everyone is talking about is *Secret Society*, by the Liberal Democrat MP Emma Nicholson, who defected from the Tory party earlier this year. Her story of the Tory party started on Monday with an account of a flirtatious John Major. Emma Nicholson is a feisty woman but I have news for the *Mirror*'s editor, Piers Morgan. You're wrong — the book everybody is talking about this week is Humphrey Carpenter's *Robert Runcie*.

Carpenter has never been a journalist but the revelations in his Runcie biography produced three consecutive splashy front pages of *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Express* and *The Sun*. They were

also covered on the influential *Today* radio programme and the main BBC and ITN television news bulletins.

September is the month when newspapers are looking to serialisations to get readers back into the newspaper habit after their summer holidays. It is also the month when Britain's publishers launch the battle for the Christmas bestseller lists. More books are published between September and November — and more sold — than in the rest of the year.

Editors are bombarded throughout the year with proposals for serialisations from publishers. Some, notably *The Sunday Times* and the *Daily Mail*, are looking for serialisations almost every week of the year. Others concentrate on autumn, January and April, when sales need a kick start and a sensational serial helps.

Selecting serials demands



PAPER ROUND Brian MacArthur

nice choices both by editors and publishers. Publishers have two ambitions. One is to recoup a significant portion of the advances they have paid to authors. The second is to sell a serialisation to the newspaper which offers the most suitable environment for their author, his subject and potential readers. *Robert Runcie* would usually be as unsuitable for *The Sun* as the memoirs of Samantha Fox would be for *The Times*.

The teasing question for editors is: will a book on offer for serial genuinely boost sales or simply keep readers happy with a good read? Is it

worth £5,000, £25,000, £50,000 — or are Sarah Duchess of York's memoirs, due this autumn, worth £500,000? Add another half a million to that for advertising on television and the Duchess has to sell a lot of newspapers to make such an investment worthwhile. Yet rivalries in Fleet Street are so fierce that a bill for £1 million may be considered cheap if it persuades readers to switch papers, particularly if some are persuaded to stick with their new choice.

Some of this autumn's early choices have been up for inspection in the past two

weeks — Joan Collins in the *Sunday Express* and *Daily Express*; *The Last Days of the Romanovs* and the *Oprah Winfrey Diet* in the *Daily Mail*; Buddy Holly in *The Sunday Times*; drug dealer Howard Marks and Tony Blair in *The Guardian*, as well as Robert Runcie and Emma Nicholson.

Still to come are Sarah Duchess of York; the story of Andre Hanscombe, the partner of Rachel Nickell (and father of their child) who was murdered on Wimbledon Common in 1992; and, cashing in on the success of the Nicholas Evans novel, Monty Roberts's story of his work as horse whisperer to the Queen. After being rejected by several major players, it looks as though *An Evil Love*, Geoffrey Wansell's life of Frederick West, so horrifying that most newspapers would not even consider a serialisation, has found a Sunday buyer.

Serialisations are only one aspect of the mutual relationship between editors and publishers. On Saturday Rachel Billington, author of *Perfect Happiness*, the sequel to *Emma*, was writing about Jane Austen in both *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph*. On Sunday, *The Observer* was trying to unravel the mystery of the first name of Inspector Morse, soon to be revealed in Colin Dexter's new novel.

On Monday, stories about five books — the new Penguin History of England, Robert Runcie, *The Archers*, A.A. Gill and Peter Stringfellow — made the dominant items on seven pages of *The Daily Telegraph* and were the subjects of two of the three leading articles.

Without the book industry, especially on Saturdays and Sundays, news editors would often be looking at empty pages. It is a good deal for both parties. Newspapers get good stories and access to star names for interviews and profiles — and the publishers get loads of free publicity to sell their books. They are so lucky they often forget to advertise them in the papers that give them so much help.

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NEWS

Britain to abandon 'mad cow' cull

The slaughter of 125,000 cattle is likely to be halted by ministers, and the cull — designed to persuade Europe to lift the ban on British beef — may never be carried out.

The decision, which could inflame the dispute between Britain and her European partners, comes in the light of new research suggesting that "mad cow" disease will die out naturally in five years. **Page 1**

Swiss told to repay Nazi gold

A huge hoard of gold looted by the Nazis during the Second World War is still being held in Swiss banks and now Britain is to ask for it to be returned. A top Swiss bank official has admitted that gold worth \$500 million — £4.6 billion at today's prices — was hidden in the country's vaults but only a fraction has been surrendered. **Pages 1, 5**

Blair accused

Tony Blair tried to defuse the row over Labour's plans to curb strike action as trade union leaders accused him of "kicking them in the teeth". **Page 1**

Meningitis warning

A surge in meningitis cases this winter was predicted by public health specialists after official figures revealed that last winter's total was the highest for more than 20 years. **Page 1**

Tax loophole plan

The Labour leadership is considering ways of reducing tax loopholes enjoyed by the wealthy as an alternative to raising the top marginal rate of income tax of 40 per cent. **Page 2**

Legal aid law delay

Plans to stop legal aid funds being wasted on undeserving cases and to force people to pay towards their legal aid bills have effectively been shelved by the Government. **Page 2**

Hospital blunders

An investigation into a unit at Grimsby Hospital where three people died and two babies were stillborn found a catalogue of errors and ineptitude. **Page 3**

Stone Age blues

Early man could play the blues with instruments made from bird bones, the British Association meeting in Birmingham was told. **Page 7**

Catherine Cookson does it her way

At the age of 90, Dame Catherine Cookson, whose books have sold more than 100 million copies, is launching a new career as a singer with the release of a tape featuring her renditions of old-time favourites and songs she has written herself. Called *Her Way*, the tape has been mixed and cleared of background noise at the Abbey Road studios. **Page 1**

Farm terror threat

Loyalist terrorists have threatened to kill a group of Irish businessmen who bought a large farm in the Irish Republic from a Protestant family who had been evicted. **Page 10**

Fish claim put off

A claim by Spanish fishermen for £80 million compensation from the Government for stopping them fishing in British waters was delayed. **Page 11**

Clinton denial

Dick Morris, President Clinton's disgraced political strategist, sent investigators a statement denying he told a prostitute that Hillary Clinton was responsible for requisitioning FBI files. **Page 12**

Lenin down under

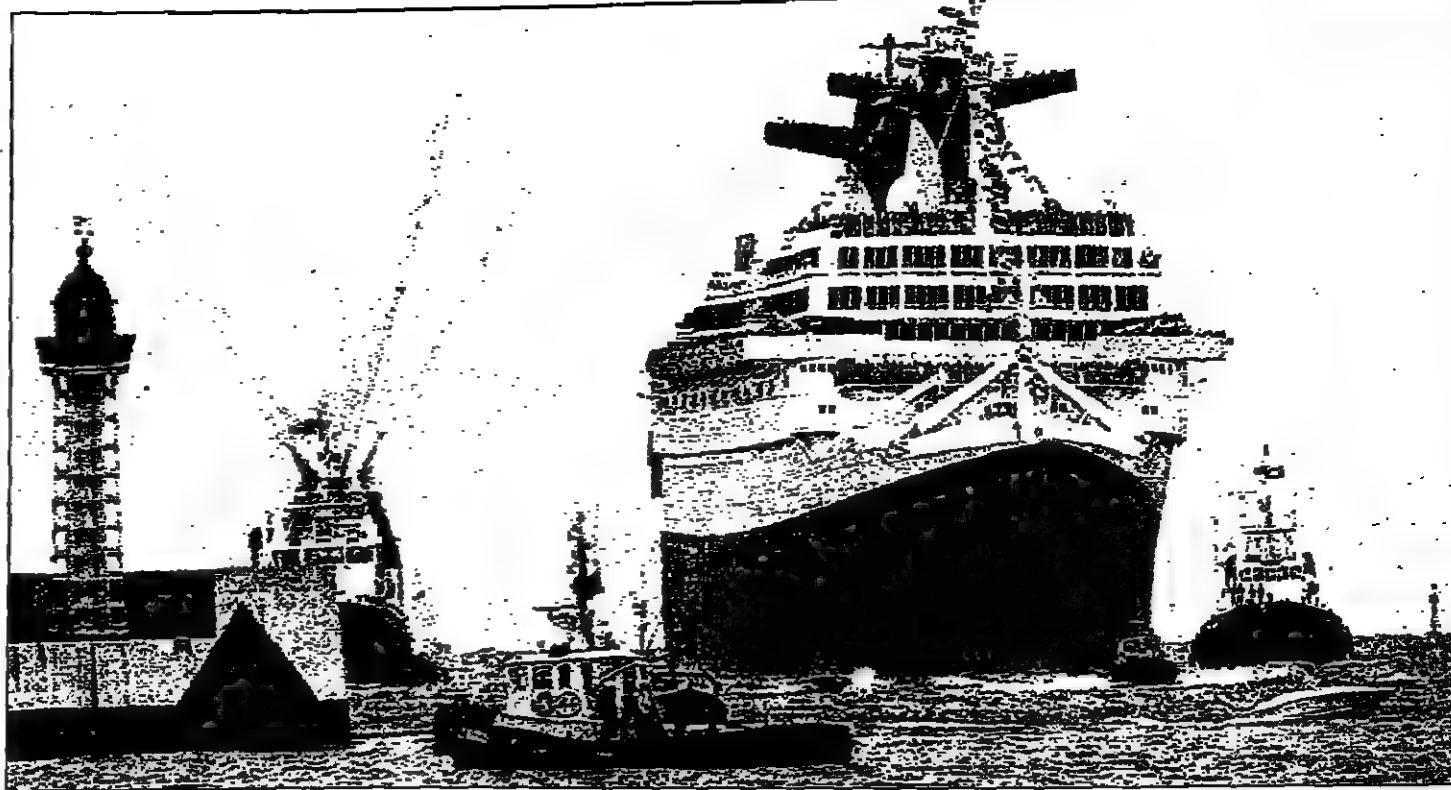
Five years after his death, Australia's most eminent historian, Professor Manning Clark, is being demonised as a traitor, after allegations by a newspaper that he wore the Order of Lenin. **Page 12**

Belgian arrests

In Belgium 23 people, including 11 police officers, were questioned in connection with Marc Dutroux, the confessed paedophile murderer. **Page 13**

Saddam rebuilds

The Pentagon said that President Saddam Hussein was rebuilding air defence missile sites hit by US cruise missile attacks on southern Iraq. **Page 14**



The Norway — previously France — at her home port of Le Havre for the first time in 17 years before sailing to Britain for repairs

BUSINESS

Lloyd's of London: The body has fined seven underwriting agencies and barred five intermediaries from doing business, in a signal disciplinary drive at the insurance market. **Page 25**

Alcopops: The craze for alcopop drinks is destroying sales of cider, Matthew Clark, the drinks company, revealed. **Page 25**

Phone bills: British Telecom yesterday shaved another £214 million from the phone bills in an effort to stem the flow of customers to rival cable companies. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 4.4 points to close at 3915.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from \$5.6 to \$6.1 after a fall from \$1.5601 to \$1.5565 but a rise from DM2.3270 to DM2.3470. **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: George Graham, who has been out of the game since February last year, was appointed to succeed Howard Wilkinson at Leeds United. **Page 48**

Crickets: Philip Tufnell, the Middlesex spin bowler, was selected for England's tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, Nasser Hussain will be vice-captain. **Page 46**

Rugby union: A match between the Barbarians and Australia in December will go ahead despite Australian claims that they will play England. **Page 42**

Tennis: Andrei Medvedev, the No 4 seed in the Bournemouth International tournament, was knocked out by Tom Kemper, a qualifier ranked 512 in the world. **Page 43**

ARTS

Opera heroine: Love is on Rosa Mannion's mind, as the soprano prepares for her debut as Violeta in Jonathan Miller's new production of *La traviata*, which opens the ENO season this week. **Page 35**

Opera hope: Next Monday, almost nine months after the Millennium Commission consigned the Cardiff Bay Opera House to the list of lottery might-have-beens, a new lottery bid is under way. **Page 35**

Pop veterans: Donald Fagen and Walter Becker, better known as Steely Dan, thrill their somewhat mature fans at Wembley. **Page 36**

Dramatic arrival: At last the West End has a serious new play to consider, with the arrival of Diane Samuels' fine *Kindergarten*, starring Diana Quick. **Page 37**

TOMORROW

FILMS
Matthew McConaughey and Sandra Bullock in the courtroom drama *A Time to Kill*

BOOKS
George Austin on the Runcie biography, Linda Colley reviews Roy Strong's British history



THE TIMES WEATHERCAST

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North Midlands	706
Yorkshire & Lancashire	707
North East	708
West Midlands & Cheshire	709
South Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire	712
East of England	713
Wiltshire & Dorset	714
Gloucestershire & Wiltshire	715
N.W. England	716
N.E. England	717
Wales & S. Wales	718
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Wales & S. Wales	749
Wales & S. Wales	750

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Glasgow airport 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Sellafield, Sharncliffe, 11C (52F); highest night temp: Warrington, 10C (50F); lowest night temp: Sellafield, 8C (46F).

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FORECAST

General: eastern counties of England will have a lot of cloud and some patchy rain or drizzle, but to the west and over Wales it will be dry and fairly bright for the most part. Winds will be from a northerly point, making it feel rather chilly in places despite normal temperatures.

Much of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with some rain or drizzle and near-normal temperatures, but south of high ground it will be mainly dry and bright, and so a little warmer. Clearer, showery weather will reach the breezy north later.

London, Central S. England, E. Midlands, W. Midlands, S. Wales, NW. England, Central N. Ireland: fairly bright with a few sunny intervals. Some isolated daytime showers. Wind north or northwest, light. Max 19C (66F).

SE. England, E. Anglia, E. England, NE. England: rather cloudy with some rain or drizzle, mainly near coasts. Wind north or northwest, light or moderate. Max 18C (64F).

Channel Isles, SW. England: mainly dry and bright with some sunny intervals. Wind north or north-east, light. Max 18C (64F).

N. Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW. Scotland, Argyll, N. Ireland: rather cloudy but mainly dry. Some local drizzle patches. Wind mainly northwest, light. Max 17C (63F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Glasgow, Central Highlands: mainly dry and bright. Isolated drizzle patches at first. Wind northwest or west, mainly light. Max 18C (64F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE. Scotland, NW. Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rain or drizzle at first, clearing from north later, with showers. Wind west or northwest, moderate or fresh. Max 16C (61F).

Outlook for Thursday and Friday: bright or sunny spells developing from the north. A few showers in the east.

Changes to the chart below from noon: high C remains slow moving; low Q will track southeast and deepen; low B will gradually edge east with little change in central pressure.

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TV LISTINGS

Preview: An unconventional treatment for brain damage in *QED: Life on Ice* (BBC1, 10.00pm) Review: Matthew Bond on General Norman Schwarzkopf's surprising debt to Hannibal. **Page 47**

OPINION

Tainted gold

Mr Rifkind's talks in Switzerland would carry more weight if he could also announce that the Government is to start repaying its own holdings of Nazi gold forthwith. **Page 10**

This is going to hurt us

The existing law of assault should be adequate to deal with "cruel or unusual" beatings of children. It does not need to be changed to make the average, caring parent a criminal. **Page 19**

Alien corn

Each age and culture finds the contemporary ghosts it needs to embody its fears. **Page 19**

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

The pure terrorism of American military hardware, goes the argument, should make lesser morals rein back on their atrocities. They should beware. **Page 18**

MARC JORDAN

There are all sorts of reasons why the continuing expansion of the National Portrait Gallery should be supported, not least because in this relativistic and integrationist age the collection tells the story of the achievements of English history and the people who were and are the achievers. **Page 18**

ALAN COREN

Someone loved this cat — indeed probably still does, not yet knowing that it will never again pop through the catflap, having reached a state where it could as easily be sid under the door. The ex-owner should be compassionately told what had happened. **Page 18**

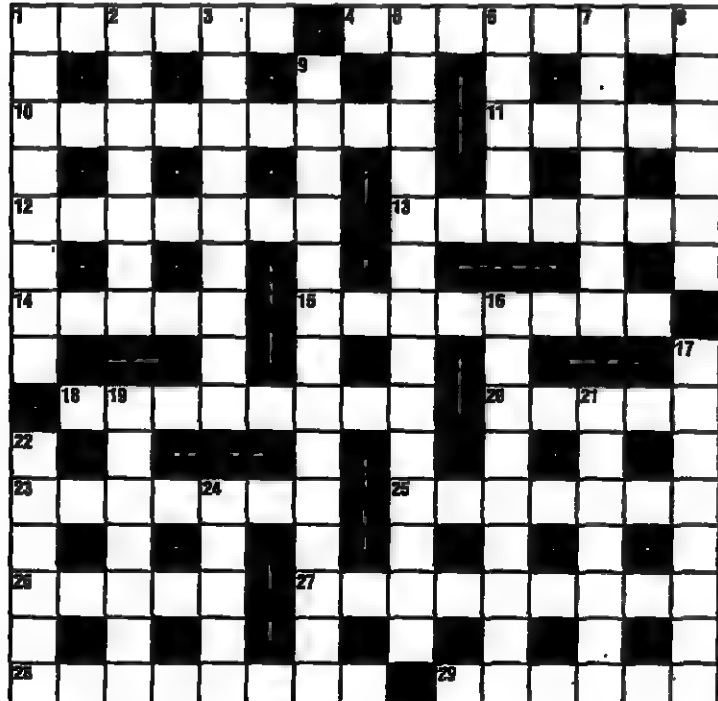
OBITUARIES

Harald Penrose, test pilot; Dimble Fleming, bridge player; Vagn Holmboe, Danish composer; David Gresham, director of personnel at BP. **Page 21**

LETTERS

Runcie biography: Iraq; hospital and social services finances; War-dour Castle; flight information; Cornwall's Celtic pride. **Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,270



- ACROSS**
- Bunch of keys found in trash (6).
 - Great dislike of Aristotle's first translation (8).
 - Conservative taking the right line in assembly (9).
 - Blown out, having fed us in mess (5).
 - Exercise with arms the media raised for discussion (5-2).
 - Late deliveries, do you say? (7).
 - Essex train carrying more than expected (5).
 - Type taking pet, for example, by Circle Line (8).
 - Very loudly utter a fabrication in pious fraud (8).
 - Halter Lear's pig had? (5).
 - Keep pleading to have fine overturned? That's a bloomer (7).
 - People who shape landscapes? (7).
 - Brook coming from a lake, not much above sea-level (5).
- DOWN**
- No curates involved with this sort of woman? (9).
 - Hull supporters may be put up here (8).
 - Back pay makes one able to write cheques (6).
 - Figure out in price he'd got wrong (8).
 - A gnome's most loving when furthest away? (7).
 - Worker, after one, tucked into crusty roll (9).
 - Constable's work, putting banks in the picture (4,2,3,5).
 - Plunder from Winchester, possibly (5).
 - Such a trader could be in gaol at Reading, say? (7).
 - Frank leaving underground, strangely, to be a jogger (6).
 - Practice of corn being processed? Miller's work, that is (6,2,6).
 - Producer providing classes — actor missing the first two (9).
 - He works things out — with no eraser, surprisingly (8).
 - Perfectly lovely umbelliferous plant cut (7).
 - Accomplished, was elevated and worked as supervisor (7).
 - A committee meeting is in train (6).
 - Country has no right to make such an emphatic denial (2,3).

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 20,269

RESONATES TIBET
TOUPOIT
PLATTER AMPOULE
TANTRON
SCRUB OUTFEST
EVAIR
RENTED JAR
LEVER RUBE
PUNT LABELLED
EASND
DEPOSITED TRAILA
AETRAISN
RONDEAU RALLIED
TCHERIDE
STEIN KINGSHED

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

Temperatures at midday local time on Monday. X = not available

INSIDE SECTION

2

TODAY



HOMES

At last, proof of price rises in a difficult market
PAGE 34



ARTS

Rosa Mannion is Violetta in a new *Traviata*
PAGES 35-37



SPORT

Graham seeks a change of fortune at Leeds
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 46, 47

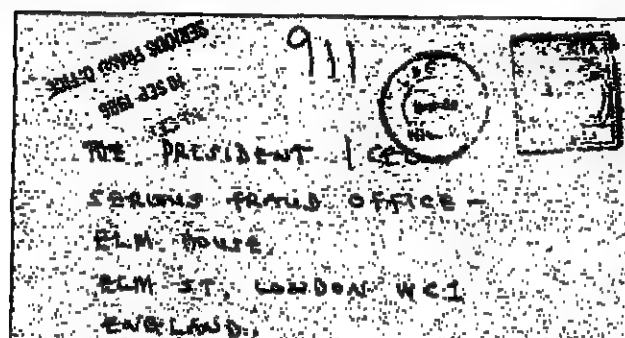
BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1996

Fraudster tries to recruit SFO chief for Nigerian scam

By JON ASHWORTH

IT WAS just another fraudulent letter scam. The author was from out of town, he had \$32 million to place in a UK bank account, and he needed the help of a trustworthy person employed by a reputable company. Nothing could be simpler — except that the recipient was George Staple, and the "company" was the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). The Director of the SFO is not, perhaps, the most logical person to target for a fraudulent scheme. But so it unfolded yesterday, when a letter addressed to the "President/CEO" and carrying a Lagos postmark, arrived at the SFO's Elm House headquarters. Mr Staple was none



The letter addressed to the "President" of the SFO, and George Staple, the Director

recount the unhappy tale of an earlier deal that went wrong, costing him and his partners \$27.5 million. He adds: "This time around we need a more reliable and trustworthy person and a reputable company

to account to transfer this money into. Hence this letter to you."

Dr Wilson concludes by asking Mr Staple to keep the proposed deal "top secret and confidential", since "top and

influential government functionaries" are involved. The transaction, needless to say, is "100 per cent risk free."

Mr Staple, a former partner in Clifford Chance, the City law firm, promptly referred the matter to an interested party — the Metropolitan Police Fraud Squad. The Met is said to have received at least 18,000 complaints about Nigerian letter frauds, and has reportedly made about 45 arrests. It is thought that at least \$39 million has been swindled from recipients who were rash enough to take up the offer.

Five men were sentenced to various terms in prison in January for their part in a Nigerian-based "tax fraud" which involved 400 victims in 60 countries. Metropolitan Police officers recovered £280,000, in a raid on three premises in central London. In May, two brothers were jailed for their part in a Lagos-based ring. Fraudsters are thought to employ UK-based operatives

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3916.1	(+5.3)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE A All share	1936.02	(+3.38)
Nikkei	20598.99	(+357.38)
Dow Jones	5729.77	(-4.07)
S&P Composite	664.07	(+0.31)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Yield	7.11%	(7.07%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	108 1/2	(108 1/2)
Future (Dec)	108 1/2	(108 1/2)

STERLING		
New York	1.5866	(1.5872)
London	1.5867	(1.5860)
DM	2.3474	(2.3271)
FF	8.0082	(7.9462)
SF	1.8197	(1.8876)
Yen	171.07	(170.19)
£ Index	86.1	(85.6)

DOLLAR		
London	1.5866	(1.5860)
DM	2.3474	(2.3271)
SF	1.8197	(1.8876)
Yen	171.07	(170.19)
£ Index	86.1	(85.6)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$22.10	(\$21.90)
WTI	\$22.10	(\$21.90)
London close	\$22.10	(\$21.90)

GOLD		
London close	\$383.48	(\$383.50)

UTILITY REVIEW		
Richard Caborn, the Shadow Minister for competitiveness and a regulation specialist, yesterday told a fringe meeting at the Trades Union Congress that the party plans a review of the utilities pricing formulae, and seeks moves to make the regulators more publicly and politically accountable.		

TEXTILES JOBS		
Courtaulds Textiles, a supplier to Marks & Spencer, is to shift more production abroad and will cut 1,500 British jobs over the next two years. Page 27, <i>Tempus</i> 28		

M&G deal urged on Kepit investors

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE board of the beleaguered Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) has written to its 70,000 investors informing them that their interests would be best served in a joint deal with M&G, the unit trust group.

However, the announcement immediately prompted a row between Kepit and Henderson Touche Remnant, the fund management group, whose TR European Growth (Treg) unit trust is bidding £500 million for Kepit.

Treg claimed that the M&G arrangement did not properly cater for the needs of the bulk of Kepit's disaffected investors who wanted cash.

The scandal at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, whose European trusts are now the centre of an investigation that could lead to big upheaval for the trust industry, has added further confusion to the complex arguments over Kepit's fate. But Shane Ross, Kepit's chairman, denied that the events at Morgan Grenfell had in any way influenced his choice of a partner.

Mr Ross is recommending a scheme proposed by M&G under which investors could choose either to hold units in a new Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation unit trust, switch into M&G's European & General unit trust, or take cash by moving into Kleinwort's Money Market trust and then liquidating their holdings.

Mr Ross said that M&G's strategy was the most attractive of the ten proposals submitted by fund management groups. He was also highly critical of the Treg's £500 million bid that inspired the approaches from other suitors, including Barings, Flemings, Guinness Flight, Invesco

and Lazards. Morgan Grenfell withdrew from the fray, after the suspension of its European trusts last week.

Mr Ross claimed that Treg's plan to liquidate Kepit's entire portfolio would raise less for investors than the deal with M&G, as the market would reduce prices in anticipation of the sale. He added that Kepit investors would eventually be forced to bear Treg's £14 million worth of bid costs.

Treg was equally dismissive of Kepit's plan to link with M&G, reminding investors that the Kepit board had originally opposed the concept of unitisation. This is the process whereby an investment trust is turned to a unit trust to allow investors to cash in their holdings at their true value rather than at a discount. Kepit shares have languished at a discount since their launch in January.

James de Saumarez, of Henderson Touche Remnant, said: "Those Kepit investors who want a continuing investment in Europe would be better off in Treg, whose performance is significantly better than M&G's. Most Kepit investors want cash. But the new Kleinwort trust and the M&G trust will be able to cherry-pick Kepit's best holdings. This means that those investors who want cash will be left with the proceeds of the less valuable parts of the portfolio."

Mr Ross said that the details of other proposals would be disclosed when further information on the M&G deal was sent out later this month.

Unit-holders in Morgan Grenfell withdrew a further £23 million yesterday, taking total withdrawals in the last week to £255 million.

Pennington, page 27



Eric Paterson, the chief executive of National Express, yesterday announced plans to bid for all remaining rail franchises. Story, page 26

Alcopops hangover for Matthew Clark

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE craze for "alcopop" drinks is destroying sales of cider, Matthew Clark, the drinks company, revealed yesterday. Shares in the company slumped by more than a third to close down 23p at 431p, wiping more than £210 million off the company's market value.

Peter Atkins, chief executive, said that sales of Matthew Clark's premium brand, also suffered, falling 28p to close at 52.5p, although the company does produce alcopop products. Shares in Merrydown, the third major cider company, improved by 0.5p to 117p.

Matthew Clark added that its profits had also been hit, although to a lesser degree, by cheap cider products which have continued to take up most of the market growth, imposing pricing pressure on premium brands.

The company said it would rethink its marketing strategy to deal with the threat posed by alcopops, but did not want to make a knee-jerk response to the problem.

Pennington, page 27

PPI creditors to receive surety money

By JON ASHWORTH

CREDITORS of Polly Peck International are to receive £2.6 million lodged as surety for Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, after a judge ruled that the funds should not be forfeited to the Crown.

Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, was asked at the Old Bailey by Roy Amlot, QC, acting for PPI's joint administrator, not to order forfeiture of the £2.6 million security left behind when Mr Nadir jumped bail in May 1993. The result means that the sum — plus an estimated £600,000 in interest — is available to creditors.

Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche, joint administrator of PPI, had challenged the application by the Crown. Mr Morris said: "I am delighted with the result as this will increase the amount of money available to creditors." The extra funds will not have a significant impact on creditors, who are owed about £1.8 billion.

BT cuts bills to fight cable

By ERIC REGULY

BT yesterday shaved another £214 million from Britain's telephone bill to try to stop customers defecting to cable companies.

The reductions come into effect next month and will see the prices of national and international calls fall by between 10 per cent and 25 per cent. BT said that the new cuts have raised the total savings to residential and business customers to more than £1.5 billion over the past three years.

Consumer groups welcomed the reductions, but criticised BT for not extending them to local calls. Emma Hellver, for

the National Consumer Council, said: "The one thing they should be doing is cutting the cost of local calls. A lot of people only make local calls."

She also attacked BT for failing to deliver more flexible pricing packages. BT last year told Ofel, the telecommunications regulator, that it might introduce a fee structure similar to ones offered by mobile phone companies. For example, customers who use the phone a lot might accept higher rental charges in exchange for cheaper calls.

The price cuts favour residential customers over business users. Of the £214 million in cuts, £120 million is directed at the home market. In the past, business has been the main beneficiary of BT's Ofel-imposed price cuts. The Consumers' Association estimates that business bills have fallen, in real terms, by 9.3 per cent each year since 1990, against 2.7 per cent for home bills.

Strong competition by cable companies in the consumer market is forcing BT to change its strategy. BT has admitted losing 50,000 customers a month to cable companies.

BT cuts prices, page 2

Lloyd's disciplines agencies

By JON ASHWORTH

LOYD'S of London has fined seven underwriting agencies and barred five intermediaries from doing business, in a sign of a heightened disciplinary drive at the insurance market. Bankside Syndicates and Murray Lawrence & Partners have been fined £5,000 each for late submission of syndicate or agency quarterly returns. Five other agencies received token fines of £500 each.

Lloyd's has started publishing details of its disciplinary actions: previously, details would have been circulated internally. The move follows the success of the reconstruction and renewal

plan, Lloyd's introduced new disciplinary bylaws with effect from August 7. These include fixed penalty fines, and the requirement that disciplinary actions be published. The above fines were imposed under an earlier bylaw.

David Gittings, director of Lloyd's regulatory division, said: "These actions are part of the ongoing regulatory activity going on at Lloyd's. The difference is that for these cases, and those in future, we will give publicity to the action taken."

In a separate action, access to the market has been withdrawn in the case of five inter-

mediaries. Philip Knight & Co has been barred for exceeding the terms of its underwriting authority. Prokor Underwriting Managers (Pty) Ltd has been barred for purporting to provide insurance in the knowledge that no cover was in place. Others barred include Colburn Wilson Co, Fortress Auto Systems (Pty) Ltd and Dobinson Gregory & Co.

Final acceptances for the Lloyd's settlement offer close at noon today. Resistance is understood to be strongest in Canada, where 268 out of 571 names have yet to accept.

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Going for growth: Steve Muffin, left, finance director, and Brian Evans, chief executive, saw pre-tax profits at Wyevalle Garden Centres rise 22.4 per cent to £5.8 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings rose 19.8 per cent to 10.4p a share. The interim dividend rises 15 per cent to 3.7p a share

National to go all-out on rail bids

By FRASER NELSON

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport group, said yesterday that it would bid for all of the unsold rail franchises.

The group, whose acquisition of the Midlands Main Line has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, said that it had decided not to "pick and choose" between the remaining franchises.

Stagecoach, the UK bus and rail company that runs South West Trains, declared a similar strategy in July.

Colin Child, finance director of National Express, said the group was confident of persuading the MMC that its ownership of both West Midlands Travel, a regional bus operator, and the Midlands train network would not present it with an unfair advantage.

He added: "The overlap between coach and rail passengers is minimal. We see rail's main competition as the car market, and our advertising strategy will be targeting car passengers directly."

Pre-tax profits increased to £20.4 million from £17.9 million on sales of £206 million (£115 million). Earnings jumped from 7.3p to 10.5p per share. An interim dividend of 3.4p (3p) will be paid on October 21.

Although net cash fell to £18.9 million from £33.7 million, the group said that it was looking to buy more bus companies.

Its two rail operations, Gatwick Express and Midland Main Line, generated a combined operating profit of £401,000 in their first four months with the group. There was a six-month profit contribution of £18.5 million from West Midlands Travel.

Polski Express, its Polish subsidiary, incurred losses of £466,000. National Express may put the service into a joint venture or withdraw completely.

Labour outlines plans to shake up utilities

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR is to propose tighter profit caps for utilities and could share out the windfall tax it intends to levy on the privatised industries on a regional basis.

The clearest picture yet of how a Labour government would tackle utility regulation emerged yesterday when one of the key architects of the policy, soon to be unveiled, outlined current thinking.

Richard Caborn, Labour's spokesman for competitiveness and a regulation specialist, told a fringe meeting at the Trades Union Congress conference that the party plans a review of the pricing formulae and to make the regulators more publicly and politically accountable and could seek to return excess profits clawed back under a windfall tax to

the areas in which companies had made their profits.

Moves to distribute the windfall tax on a regional basis are in their infancy but such an allocation would bolster a Labour reinforcement of regional development.

Mr Caborn said: "Why shouldn't it be that where the money has been generated it then finds its way back?" Regional distribution of the tax, which is expected to raise at least £3 billion, could help to fund training and youth employment schemes. Tax raised from a levy on the electricity generators and possibly British Gas, which do not have a regional base, would be distributed nationally.

Mr Caborn stressed that the utilities would face harsh profit caps, run in tandem with

tighter corporate governance. The pricing formula of retail price inflation minus X, conceived by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, is likely to be discarded in favour of profit-sharing.

Mr Caborn said Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, was looking at profit-sharing programmes to curb the companies' ability to pass cost savings made under RPI-X straight on to shareholders. He said: "RPI-X has largely failed in stopping benefits going directly to shareholders."

Foreign ownership of UK utilities is also likely to come under scrutiny and Labour could insist on domestic companies having a separate listing on the Stock Exchange if they are owned by overseas

businesses. Labour also hopes to strengthen the hand of utilities to compete globally and could endorse vertical integration of the type that was outlawed by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, when he vetoed bids by National Power and PowerGen for two regional electricity companies.

Mr Caborn described the decision by Mr Lang to bar National Power from buying Southern Electric and PowerGen from buying Midlands Electricity as a "narrow view". He said UK companies must be empowered to compete effectively overseas. He said they could be suffering from too small a home base to nurture the expertise needed.

TUC reports, page 2

RJB confirms plan for £300m colliery

By OLIVER AUGUST

RJB Mining, the company that bought most of British Coal's mines, yesterday confirmed that it has submitted proposals for a new colliery in the Witham district, north of Newark, Nottinghamshire.

This is the first new pit development in England since 1981 and the largest since the coal bonanza in Yorkshire's Selby coalfield 20 years ago. The coalfield is likely to contain 655 million tonnes and will take ten to 15 years to come into full production.

About a third of the reserves vary in depth from 600 to 900 metres and extraction would be at the rate of three million tonnes a year, creating 500 jobs. Development is expected to cost £300 million at 1996 prices. Plans for the mine come a month after RJB, whose managing director of deep mines is Bill Rowell, announced the closure of the Point of Ayr Colliery, in North Wales.

RJB saw pre-tax interim profit



Rowell: profits up

its rise to £86.1 million, from £85.8 million, in the half year to June 30. Turnover eased to £700 million (£740 million). The interim dividend is 8p (5.5p). The results were calculated after charging an £18.3 million operating loss following geological problems at the Asfordby pit in Leicestershire.

Tempus, page 28

Ulster wins 700 new factory jobs

MORE than 700 jobs are to be created in Limavady, Co Londonderry, in a £68.2 million project by Seagate Technology, the world's largest independent manufacturer of disc drives (Nicholas Watt writes).

Seagate will take over the site of the Benelux factory which closed last week with the loss of 100 jobs. The Benelux plant, which opened last year with a £10 million grant from the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board, made compact disc covers.

The board will provide £24.2 million towards the new £74,000 sq ft plant, hailed as one of the most important inward investment projects in Northern Ireland in years.

The factory, Seagate's second in Londonderry, will begin production next July and is expected to provide 759 new jobs over two years.

Amstrad may give £100m to investors

By JASON NISSE

AMSTRAD, which called off takeover talks with Psion, the rival electronics group, two months ago, is considering handing over £100 million of cash to its shareholders.

Alan Sugar, the group's chairman and 34 per cent shareholder, said the group was awaiting the ruling in its legal action against Seagate Technology of the US before it decides what to do with its £107 million cash pile.

The court is due to rule next month on Amstrad's claim that Seagate delivered faulty hard disk drives for Amstrad's personal computers in 1988 and 1989. Seagate could be forced to pay damages of over £100 million.

A similar case, against Western Digital, based in California, is due to start in America in February.

Mr Sugar said Amstrad had so far shied away from giving cash back to shareholders because of the tax costs. But he

Midland and CU agree to work councils

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MIDLAND BANK and Commercial Union, the insurance group, yesterday brought 70,000 staff under European works council arrangements with the establishment of two new councils.

Midland's arrangement will enable consultation with its 40,000 staff in the UK although the HSBC banking group, its parent, is to persist with plans to deregulate the banking union for 9,000 managers.

The deal, which will also reach Midland's 4,000 employees in Europe, is the first struck by HSBC with Biffu, the banking union. But Alan Scrimgeour, assistant secretary of Biffu who will sit on the new council, tempered his welcome for the arrangement with a call for full union recognition.

He said: "Welcome though the works council is, to be fully effective, the listening bank has got to listen to its managers in the UK. It is illogical and an insult to their managers to deny them full union rights."

Midland's works council is only the second in the banking industry. Last year NatWest became the first bank to ratify such an arrangement. Biffu is holding talks with other banks, including Barclays and Lloyds TSB, to introduce councils.

Commercial Union's deal, which covers 16,800 staff across Europe with 8,500 in the UK, was struck after consultation with the European wide Euro-Felt grouping of unions and the UK staff association. The group said it would enable greater participation in European business.

UK companies do not have to form works councils because of Britain's opt-out from the social chapter, but those with European interests are obliged to do so under the European works council directive. TUC research has shown that the UK is setting up works councils faster than any other EU member state.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

New code of payment practice launched

A NEW initiative to combat the late payment of commercial debt was launched yesterday. The Confederation of British Industry and the British Standards Institution joined government ministers in introducing the new standard, BS 7890, with the aim of creating better links between suppliers and customers and improving present payment practices. Business leaders, who are urging all firms to embrace the new standard, believe it will improve both the credit management procedures of the seller and the purchasing practices of the buyer, saving time and money for both sides.

The standard adds to existing codes of practice by providing payment guidelines for both sides. While the standard itself is not legally binding, business leaders envisage that if companies enter into a contract to supply goods and services, and quote the standard in effecting the transaction, then as part of the contract the standard would have full legal status under current contract law.

Scotia's commercial aim

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the drugs development company, plans to become a commercial pharmaceuticals group and expects to have the first of its new drugs on the market next year, with profits by 1999. Scotia, the second largest player in the biotech sector, yesterday reported a loss of £7 million in the half year to the end of June, against a loss of £5.3 million previously. Operating income rose 12 per cent to £10.9 million. Scotia shares closed at 69½p, down 42p.

Bardon keeps up payout

BARDON GROUP, the quarrying and aggregates company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.8p a share for the half-year to June 30. Profits rose to £5.8 million from £5.2 million in the first six months and earnings improved to 0.4p a share from 0.3p. The company said second-half trading would be tough. In the UK a decline in volumes may not be fully offset by higher prices. In America the outcome will depend on the weather holding good until the year end.

Eurotunnel post

EUROTUNNEL has appointed Richard Shirreffs as finance director. Mr Shirreffs has been recruited from Cateau, the French subsidiary of Tesco, where he is finance director. He will be based in Calais and will take up his new post on November 1. He will report to Georges-Christian Chazot, Eurotunnel's managing director, and will be responsible for all financial matters relating to the business except for talks with Eurotunnel's banks.

Allied Leisure dividend

ALLIED LEISURE, which owns 35 bowling centres, is resuming dividend payments after a three-year absence. The company recommends payment of 0.5p a share for the 54 weeks to the end of June. Profits were £2.54 million before tax and exceptional items, rising from £1.83 million in the first half of the previous year. Adjusted earnings were 2.85p a share (2.44p). The company said like-for-like sales were up 20 per cent in the first half of the current year.

Kingsbury 43% ahead

KINGSBURY GROUP, the specialist furniture retailer, reported a 43 per cent jump in interim underlying pre-tax profits to £2.5 million (£1.8 million). The rise comes on the back of sales growth of 21 per cent. The group has opened four stores in the first half and plans a further five in the second half. Earnings per share, in the six months ended July 6, were up 36 per cent to 7.2p. There will be an interim dividend, payable on November 12, of 1.25p, up 25 per cent.

Olivetti chief's UK date

FRANCESCO CAIO, managing director of Olivetti, the struggling Italian electronics company, will visit London early next week to meet investors and analysts. Up to 30 per cent of the company is owned by London-based investors who want to question Signor Caio after Olivetti's announcement last week that it had made a half-time loss of 440.2 billion lire. After chaotic trading on Monday Olivetti shares yesterday hit a new low of 575 lire (24.43p) during trading.

MBA

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
DIGITAL COMPUTER SERVICES LIMITED
Registered number: 1825416
Nature of business: Computer Services
Trade Classification: 27
Date of appointment of Administrative Receiver: 6 September 1996
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver: National Westminster Bank Plc
Address: National Westminster Bank Plc, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of Administrative Receiver: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
STATION SHIPWAYS LIMITED
Registered number: 1825416
Nature of business: Shipbuilding
Trade Classification: 34
Date of appointment of Administrative Receiver: 6 September 1996
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver: National Westminster Bank Plc
Address: National Westminster Bank Plc, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of Administrative Receiver: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
CHICKET ST THOMAS DANIELS LTD
(In Administration)
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the Administrative Receiver, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU, on 11 September 1996 at 10.30am. The business to be conducted at the meeting is to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver and to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver and to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
DIGITAL COMPUTER SERVICES (HOLDINGS) LIMITED
Registered number: 1825416
Nature of business: Computer Services
Trade Classification: 27
Date of appointment of Administrative Receiver: 6 September 1996
Name of person appointing the Administrative Receiver: National Westminster Bank Plc
Address: National Westminster Bank Plc, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of Administrative Receiver: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU
Address of the company: 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU

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CHICKET ST THOMAS DANIELS LTD
(In Administration)
Notice is hereby given that a meeting of creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of the Administrative Receiver, 100 Broad Street, London EC2M 2YU, on 11 September 1996 at 10.30am. The business to be conducted at the meeting is to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver and to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver and to consider the appointment of an Administrative Receiver.

Better market share helps to lift Aegis

AEGIS, the largest media buying and planning group, yesterday announced a 23 per cent rise in underlying pre-tax profits, to £20.1 million, in the half year to June 30 (Eric Reguly writes).

Earnings per share were 1.4p (1.2p). Aegis, which operates under the Carat name, said the results stemmed from a growth in advertising and market share and the recruitment of large clients such as Philips. An interim dividend of 0.25p will be paid on October 11. Shares fell 2p to 63½p.

Spring Ram sees signs of upturn

ROGER REGAN, chairman of Spring Ram, yesterday said that there are signs of an upturn in demand as the troubled kitchens and bathrooms group reported a rise in pre-tax losses to £20.4 million, from £17.3 million, in the first half of this year (Jason Nisse writes).

Mr Regan also said there had been some improvement in Spring Ram's furniture operations, which are for sale. The loss per share was 4.5p (3.5p). There is again no dividend.

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Sell
Australia \$	2.04	1.88	Malta	0.88	0.84
Austria Sch	17.42	16.92	Netherlands Gld	2.767	2.537
Belgium Fr	51.05	48.75	New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Canada S	2.242	2.062	Norway Kr	10.26	9.76
Cyprus Cyp£	0.754	0.699	Portugal Esc	250.00	231.50
Denmark Kr	6.57	6.37	S Africa Rd	7.28	6.78
Finland Mk	7.85	6.99	Spain Ptas	200.00	180.00
France Fr	8.36	7.71	Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Germany DM	2.48	2.28	Switzerland Fr	2.03	1.85
Greece Dr	367	362	Turkey Lira	1360.00	1210.00
Hong Kong \$	12.28	11.58	USA \$	1.656	1.526
India Rs	115	95			
Ireland P	1.02	0.94			
Israel Sh	5.31	4.86			
Italy Lira	2000	1800			
Japan Yen	184.40	168.40			

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices not subject to confirmation and should be checked by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

مكتبة من الأصل

□ Williams focuses on focus □ Three-way split for investment trust □ Regan's patient still in intensive care

The leopards change their spots

IF conglomerate has become a term of abuse, then "acquisition-minded conglomerate" must be the ultimate insult. Which is curious given how many there are still around. The dictionary defines a conglomerate as a group or corporation formed by merging of unrelated firms. Most companies of any age fall within this definition, having evolved over the decades through a curious, quasi-biological process of fission and fusion as deals were done and different businesses were bought and sold.

Some argue, therefore, that the current distaste for conglomerates is more a matter of fashion and perception. They may even point out that no one in the City ever took to task Gerry Robinson, of Granada, or Sir Clive Thompson, at Rentokil, for heading groupings that range from Coronation Street to motorway cafes or office cleaning to tropical plants until they were involved in takeover bids.

But boards of directors do not sensibly ignore fashion even if the two biggest fashion victims, BTR and Hanson, left it too long. BTR will this week cut its dividend by a third and make much of its plans for disposals; Hanson, from October, becomes four separate companies. There are others that survived, by proving either that they could bring added value to the concept

— difficult, that, given that the City had decided it was irredeemably flawed — or that they were not really a conglomerate after all.

The firm-flam that accompanied this strategy made much of "focus", the corporate buzz-word of the 1990s. This means concentrating on profitable areas, the sort of blindingly obvious insight that management consultants are paid millions to come up with. The focus word will be well to the fore when BTR makes its apology to the City tomorrow, and it was on offer yesterday from Williams.

This is one of the survivors, Sir Nigel Rudd, its chairman, having spotted early the conglomerates brush coming and ducked to avoid most of the tar. The second half, he told the City, will feature "the continuing strength of our fire protection businesses and the increasing sales volume of security products". Limping a poor third, by implication, comes building products and such household names as Rawlplugs and Larchlap fencing, Andega conservatories and Smallbone luxury fitted kitchens.

Roger Carr, the chief executive, says Williams is still "hungry for acquisitions" — just as well that he said it. These will be in the two chosen areas. The level of debt, gearing now at 90 per cent, should require matching disposals to fund them. Williams believes that interest cover, a better measure of what it can afford, would allow as much as £300 million to be spent before any disposals. These will come eventually, and among those well-known and readily saleable building products.

Thus do the leopards, imperceptibly, change their spots. Expect much more talk of focus as the process continues. And just wait for the tide to change, conglomerates to come back into fashion, and all the leopards' spots to start to fade again.

Kepit in the family

INVESTORS in Kepit, or those who are not heartily sick of the whole affair by now, might ponder Hilaire Belloc's lines on an election:



"The accursed power which stands on Privilege (And goes with Women, and Champagne, and Bridge/ Broke," he wrote, "and Democracy resumed her reign (Which goes with Bridge, and Women and Champagne)".

Plus ça change, in other words. Kleinwort Benson, whose record with the Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust has been much criticised, has been on a beauty parade in recent weeks. The independent board of directors have been casting around for alternative managers, spurred by a hostile bid from one such, Touche Remnant. They have reached a decision, and the winner is ... Kleinwort Benson, in alliance with another City heavyweight,

M&G. Investors have three options, and can mix and match between them.

They can get their cash out as they wish via another Kleinwort trust. They can stay with Kleinwort through son-of-Kepit, a unit trust, so wiping out the discount to their proper value the investment trust's shares are trading at.

Or they can throw in their lot with M&G, investing in a more widely spread European unit trust and hoping for a better performance from this in future. Kleinwort would clearly hope they would stay with its own vehicle, which will retain some of the original Kepit securities, and is forecasting a significant upturn for these.

Just two reservations. First, the attraction of unit trusts has, how should one put it, dimmed over the past fortnight; no fault of Kleinwort but look rather to another German-owned City institution. Secondly, there is no indication what other offers were made. Kleinwort says its scheme is less expensive than Touche Remnant's. But investors should wait for further details towards

the middle of this month, which should contain some idea what other plans were laid before the independent directors.

Not much Spring in the Ram's step

THREE years ago, when the institutional shareholders ousted Spring Ram's founder, Bill Rooney, and installed Roger Regan as chairman, Mr Regan said it would take three years to turn around the ailing kitchens and bathrooms group. Well, time's up. The bad news is that Spring Ram has just recorded a half-year loss of more than £20 million. The good news is that all should be fine within 18 months.

While it would be unfair to characterise Mr Regan as the company doctor who killed the patient, his remedial treatment at Spring Ram seems to have moved it from the sick bay to the intensive care ward. The company has seen more than £100 million of losses since he took the helm and continuing operations were trading in the red in the first half. And the shares stand

at around a quarter of the price they commanded on the day of his appointment.

Yesterday he was being upbeat. July sales showed a slight rise; the takeover of Texas DIY by Homebase had not had too much of an effect; Stag Furniture should be sold by the end of the year; the core businesses of kitchens and bathrooms should break even in the second half; and, if all goes to plan, Spring Ram could make £5 million next year. This compares with the £21 million in the last year of Bill Rooney. And the institutions kicked him out for that.

Replacing Rooney looked at the time like a positive move. But shareholders can be forgiven now for feeling like the Russian voter who looks at Boris Yeltsin and wonders if the Communists weren't so bad after all.

Bitter lemon

MATTHEW CLARK has lost a third of its stock market value after a profits warning that blamed the new breed of alcoholic lemonades. Will this become the next catch-all excuse for underperformance by the drinks companies, in the same way that every dull leisure company has blamed the National Lottery? This could be the start of a trend even more invidious than those wretched alcopops themselves.

More jobs to go as Courtaulds Textiles reshapes

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

COURTAULDS TEXTILES, a leading supplier to Marks & Spencer, is to shift more of its production abroad and will cut at least 1,500 UK jobs, equal to 11 per cent of its British workforce, over the next two years.

The company, which yesterday reported it had gone into the red with an interim loss after exceptional of £8.5 million, compared with a profit of £6.4 million a year ago, has sold six businesses in recent

months, and plans to dispose of a further six. So far this year, it has cut more than 700 jobs in the UK.

Colin Dyer, chief executive since June, declined to say which UK factories are now under threat of closure. More production will be moved to countries with lower labour costs, such as Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Sri Lanka. He said that a minimum wage would accelerate the loss of jobs in the UK textiles sector.

Government figures due out today are expected to show a decline in the number of unemployed in August, but later this month British Airways is widely expected to announce plans to shed around 10,000 jobs, equal to a quarter of its workforce.

Mr Dyer surprised the City yesterday by announcing that restructuring will cost between £30 million and £35 million over the next two years, including £9.1 million charged in the first half of this year. Excluding this charge, Courtaulds made an interim pre-tax profit of £600,000, compared with £10.3 million a year earlier.

Most of the remaining £21 million to £26 million cost of restructuring will be charged in the second half and analysts expect it to wipe out most of the profits for the full year. They were expecting a much lower restructuring charge.

Courtaulds Textiles says it will fund the programme with

cash raised from disposals. Annual benefits are expected to build to between £10 million and £13 million by 1998. In the years after the programme, reorganisation costs are expected to be around £2 million to £3 million per year.

The company's structure has been reorganised into four divisions: lace and stretch fabric; lingerie and hosiery; casualwear and underwear; and furnishings.

Fabrics fared worst in the first half, with profit before interest down £3.2 million, because of weak demand in the US and in continental Europe. Operating priorities are to resolve the problems in lace and improve margins.

In clothing, profit was similar to last year, excluding reorganisation costs. Order books indicate better second-half sales than a year ago.

Mr Dyer intends to develop sales to the company's biggest buyer, Marks & Spencer. It currently accounts for 28 per cent of its sales. He expects good progress in clothing and stretch fabrics but says lace margins remain a problem.

Earnings per share of 3.1p a year ago turned into losses per share of 3.7p for the six months ended June 30. The company is maintaining its interim dividend at 5.2p. It is payable on October 22. The company's shares closed up 5.5p at 310.5p.

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Towards 2000: Parity, the information technology company, expects expenditure on IT to rise sharply as companies make efforts to contend with the so-called millennium factor (Martin Barrow writes). The company said clients risk, incurring substantial costs if they do not act promptly to reprogram computers to prevent systems from malfunctioning because they

Refocusing at Williams may lead to disposals

BY PAUL DURMAN

WILLIAMS HOLDINGS yesterday revealed that this year's £223 million acquisition spree has led to a substantial rise in its debt-equity ratio, prompting suggestions that the company may seek to sell parts of its building products division. (See Pennington this page).

Williams is keen to distance itself from its conglomerate past and is focusing on international businesses in fire protection, security and building products.

Zafar Khan, analyst at Société Générale Straus Turnbull, said businesses in the UK such as Valor gas fires, Dreamland electric blankets, Larch-Lap fencing panels and Smallbone luxury kitchens looked out of place and could be candidates for disposal.

Roger Carr, Williams' chief executive, said he was comfortable with gearing that rose from under 20 per cent at the beginning of the year to 107 per cent at June 30. Borrowings rose to £370.9 million, but gearing was also pushed up by a £155 million fall in net assets.

Mr Carr said Williams' interest payments remained well covered at nine times and the group is strongly cash generative. The recent sale of the group's electronics business also brought in £71 million. Mr Carr added: "Our appetite for acquisitions is not diluted. The more our man-

agement teams become deeply entrenched in the industries where they now operate, the more they discover opportunities."

Williams was reporting an 11.4 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £114.9 million. Good progress in fire protection and security enabled the company to overcome the problems of weak building markets in continental Europe.

Williams is expecting similar trading conditions for the rest of the year. Analysts are forecasting full-year profits of around £245 million.

Building products is the biggest business, with sales of £438 million in the first half. An increased number of housing starts in the US helped to produce a £3.7 million rise in North American profits to £22.9 million, but the contribution from the European arm fell back to £38.9 million (£40.6 million). The economic problems of France and Germany depressed sales.

The fire protection division based on Kidde International has virtually doubled in size through acquisitions in the past year. Its profits rose by 28.6 per cent to £40.5 million, with 8 or 9 per cent of the improvement coming from organic growth.

Williams is paying an interim dividend of 5.8p a share, a 5.5 per cent rise.

European Leisure rises 30%

A maiden contribution from Riley's American Pool helped European Leisure to achieve a 30 per cent rise in full-year profits at £5.4 million.

The company said that its Maytag gaming machine division had also benefited from deregulation measures introduced at the beginning of the year.

Turnover rose 12 per cent to £77 million. There is again no interim dividend. The shares fell 20p to 176.5p after the company said it would place its banking syndicate equity and raise new funds for expansion.

S-R cash pile

Severfield-Reeve, the structural steel company, had net cash of £3.46 million at June 30, up from £2.51 million. The company said demand remained high. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits rose to £1.8 million from £991,000. The interim dividend is increased to 1.75p a share from 1p due October 28.

Middlesex up

Middlesex Holdings, the minerals trading company, increased profits to £4.56 million before tax from £2.45 million in the six months to June 30. Turnover improved to £87.9 million from £17.4 million. There is again no interim dividend.

GBE ahead

GBE International, the process engineering group, said second-half prospects are encouraging, with a strong order book. In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits rose to £1.48 million from £864,000. The interim dividend is increased 20 per cent to 0.6p a share.

Payout held

Scrutons, the shipping, engineering and security services group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 0.6p a share despite an increase in pre-tax profits to £970,000 from £698,000 in the six months to June 30.

AEA float attracts 'very strong private interest'

BY PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in AEA Technology, the nuclear decommissioning and waste management experts, are being offered at between 240p and 270p, giving the company an expected market value of up to £216 million.

The company, until recently part of the Atomic Energy Authority, is the Government's last privatisation before the general election. Only 10 per cent of its shares are earmarked for private investors. Sir Anthony Cleaver,

AEA Technology's chairman, said there appears to be "very strong interest" from private investors, judging from presentations the company has made to stockbrokers.

Sir Anthony said investors have been keen to learn more about some of the more colourful applications of the company's technology. These include developing high performance batteries for mobile phones and helping with the clean-up of Chernobyl after

the nuclear accident in the 1980s. Just over half of AEA Technology's £280-million-a-year business is nuclear-related. It employs 600 PhDs "in every discipline from astrophysics to zoology".

After adjusting for reorganisation and other costs, the indicated price range puts AEA Technology's shares on a historic price-earnings multiple of between 15.1 and 17 times. At 240p, the company would be worth £192 million.

Delta's chief executive departs as profits tumble

BY OLIVER AUGUST

DELTA, the engineering group, yesterday disclosed a sharp fall in first-half profits and announced the departure of Robert Easton as chief executive.

The company reported a downturn in profits to £115 million before tax in the six months to June 30, from £35 million previously, affected by restructuring costs and a £5.7 million charge against a decline in the price of copper in the wake of the Sumitomo

copper scandal earlier this year. Mr Easton, who has been with Delta for 22 years and was made chief executive in 1989, had asked to retire last Christmas. He will be succeeded by Jon Scott-Maxwell, 44, a divisional managing director of GKN's Automotive Driveline business.

Despite a fall in earnings to 1.8p a share from 14.5p, the company is maintaining the interim dividend at 4.5p. The shares rose 24p to 401.5p. Mr

Easton said trading conditions had remained generally difficult during the first six months, similar to those of the second half of 1995.

Weak construction-related markets in the UK were coupled with a sharp downturn in continental Europe. Activity in other overseas markets remained at reasonable levels, with the exception of the Middle East.

Restructuring cost a total of £5 million.

Rexam in £300m sales plan

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

REXAM, the paper and packaging group, plans to raise up to £300 million from disposals as it continues its recovery after last year's dismal performance.

The company, which lost its FT-SE 100 place earlier this year after a 40 per cent decline in share value, yesterday reported a 25 per cent fall in half-year profits to £83 million before tax and exceptional items. A 6.1p interim dividend (same) is due on November 3.

Jeremy Lancaster, chairman, said that the group had shown an improvement over the second half of last year, when profits plummeted because of extreme volatility in raw material prices.

He added that although profits for the first two months of the second half were ahead of last year, markets in Europe were still flat and the company is cautious about the outlook for the second half.

Ralph Boerjesson, the new chief executive, said Rexam would dispose of low-margin, underperforming divisions and concentrate on improving the return on assets in remaining divisions.

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Cash gusher gives Clyde Petroleum a lift

TOKY WHITE



Malcolm Gordon, left, Clyde chairman and Roy Franklin, managing director yesterday

CLYDE PETROLEUM, the oil exploration group that took over Crusader, an Australian oil explorer in May, is enjoying a cash flow surge because of increased production and higher oil prices.

Oil production volumes averaged 39,153 barrels per day in the first half of the year, up from 37,618 bpd in the same period in 1995. Realised oil prices were up almost £2 per barrel, to £12.13, leading to a 24 per cent increase in pre-tax profits, to £24 million.

Clyde expects production for the year to average 42,000 bpd

including 45,000 bpd in the second half, with a 12 per cent contribution from the new Australian assets.

The surge in production was helped by Clyde's 6.6 per cent interest in the Andrew field in the North Sea, which came on stream six months early and 22 per cent below its budgeted development cost. Clyde's new Indonesian production interests provided 18 per cent of total oil volumes, contributing 1.3 million barrels for Clyde in the five months of ownership.

Clyde said that it was well ahead of the average of 42,000 bpd

ing production by 5 per cent a year. Exploration in the UK included participation in five wells, all of which were plugged and abandoned. Clyde plans three exploration wells next year in Indonesia, where tax incentives let the company set off its investment in exploration as a cost under its production-sharing contract.

Cash flow from operations was £56 million in the first half. Earnings per share fell to 2.8p, from 3.2p, because of a higher provision for overseas taxes, but the interim dividend

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYMentoring
by Morgan

DEREK DRAPER, Peter Mandelson's former boy wonder-cum-researcher and editor of *Progress*, a publication for Labour activists, has reason to feel abashed. He published a lengthy article in the latest issue, praising Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, the company at the centre of last week's unit trust scandal. Draper describes NIGAM's recent foray into Leytonstone Comprehensive as part of a mentoring scheme. "A far cry from the image most Labour supporters have of merchant banks," he gushes, adding that "next time we see the film *Wall Street* and Gordon Gekko is preaching 'greed is good', we should remember the other side of the City, those who practice the 'stakeholding' is good philosophy instead."

Two for one?

DEWE ROGERSON, the PR giant, yesterday distributed press releases giving the interim results of Pendragon, the car sales company, on notepaper headed with Nationwide's blue and green logo and address. Both Nationwide and Dewe Rogerson use Pims, the printing and services group. Could this be how the confusion arose, or is it just a case of cutting costs?

Gritty Lutheran

NATWEST could soon be press officer-less after an announcement yesterday that Edward Townsend, head of Group Media Relations, is leaving to join Luther Pendragon, the issues management consultancy. Townsend's news comes in the same week that Simon Lewis, director of corporate affairs, gives up his seat at NatWest to join British Gas Energy. George Pitcher, who is joint managing director of Luther Pendragon, doesn't hold back when he describes Townsend, a cricket, rugby and jazz fan, as "a wise counsel and a gritty operator" — in short, he is very Lutheran.



Clarke: 40-inch waist

Measuring up

CABINET ministers across the Continent have handed over their waist and leg measurements to Dockers, which is part of Levis Strauss, in a bid for a free pair of the "casual" pants. By the end of this week, Kenneth Clarke, who boasts a 40-inch waist and a 31-inch inside leg, will have received his tan colour trousers. While Michael Heseltine, Sir Patrick Mayhew, and Helmut Kohl take the longest trouser length at 36 inches, the latter also has the largest waist measurement at 50 inches. Michael Portillo and John Major are mere slips of things with a willowy 34-inch waist.

Big spender

ONE can't help wondering about the significance of Psion spending £1.5 million investigating Alan Sugar's Amstrad before calling off the aborted merger, while Amstrad needed to spend only £300,000 on its inquiry into the high-flying Psion.

MORAG PRESTON

Testing times ahead for
single currency's architectsJanet Bush
studies the
schedule
of EMU's
promoters

Preparations for a European single currency may seem like a rather dull virtual reality game to many in Britain, but, on the Continent, hard decisions are already being made by those determined to join up in 1999. Even as Britain's political leaders carefully maintain enough ambiguity to avoid scaring voters come election time, the EMU clock is ticking.

The most public focus of the next few weeks will be budgets due to be unveiled by most of the major European economies for 1997, the last year written into the Maastricht treaty. A series of extremely tough austerity packages are in prospect after deficit overshoots almost everywhere in 1996: in France and Germany, the crucial twin pillars of the planned monetary union, borrowing is well above levels of two years ago.

In France, whose ability to meet the Maastricht deficit criteria is seen as the crucial arbiter of whether the single currency will happen in 1999, the public unions have already planned an autumn of strikes and protest marches against spending cuts that they see as an assault on the welfare state.

There has been much speculation, as the budget season gets under way, that European currencies could hit serious turbulence this autumn if financial markets are not convinced by the budget arithmetic or if political unrest looks as if it could threaten fiscal resolve.

However, this proposition is yet to be tested. There is ample evidence that the main players are prepared to fudge the Maastricht criteria enough to get a core of countries safely into the single currency on time, and the financial markets have done little to question the glaring compromises on the treaty.

This autumn will see how

far the markets are prepared to accept slippage from the most troublesome of the Maastricht criteria, the one limiting deficits to 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Reality dictates that most of the prospective core will do well to get somewhere between 3 and 4 per cent on deficits and that even Germany will settle for that. And if the politicians decide to go ahead on that basis, it is arguable whether the markets will bother to challenge them.

Delivering budget cuts is the most pressing and concrete challenge because 1997 is crunch year. However, this autumn also sees a series of meetings that will discuss some of the thorniest issues that need to be resolved before EMU. They are not as pressing as getting fiscal houses in order, but some progress is seen to be needed if momentum is to be maintained.

A largely technical discus-

sion will continue on a so-called ERM II. A two-tier Europe is now acknowledged as a reality. The assumption is that a relatively small core of countries will join a single currency in 1999, with the rest staying outside, either until their economies converge towards agreed criteria or until their politicians decide that they want to join. The "ins" are determined that the "outs" should not be allowed to indulge in competitive devaluations to the detriment of "ins" and want them to adhere to some form of exchange-rate discipline.

Thus far, a usefully meaningless formula has been reached in which there will be some form of Exchange Rate Mechanism II for the "outs", but the issue has been left loose enough that those who do not want to join an ERM II will not have to. Worried work will nevertheless continue on designing the system, mostly in the European Monetary

Institute, the precursor to a European central bank. There will also be more discussion on access to Target, the new payments and settlements system proposed for the Euro. A row over this has been rumbling under the surface for some months amid allegations that France and Germany are trying to discriminate against the "outs", primarily Britain, in an attempt to wrest more financial and trading business from the City.

The most substantive issue of the next few months is the Stability Pact. In its original form, this was a proposal by Germany to impose discipline on members of EMU once the single currency is in place, firing members a proportion of their GDP if they allowed their deficits to drift out of line with the Maastricht limits.

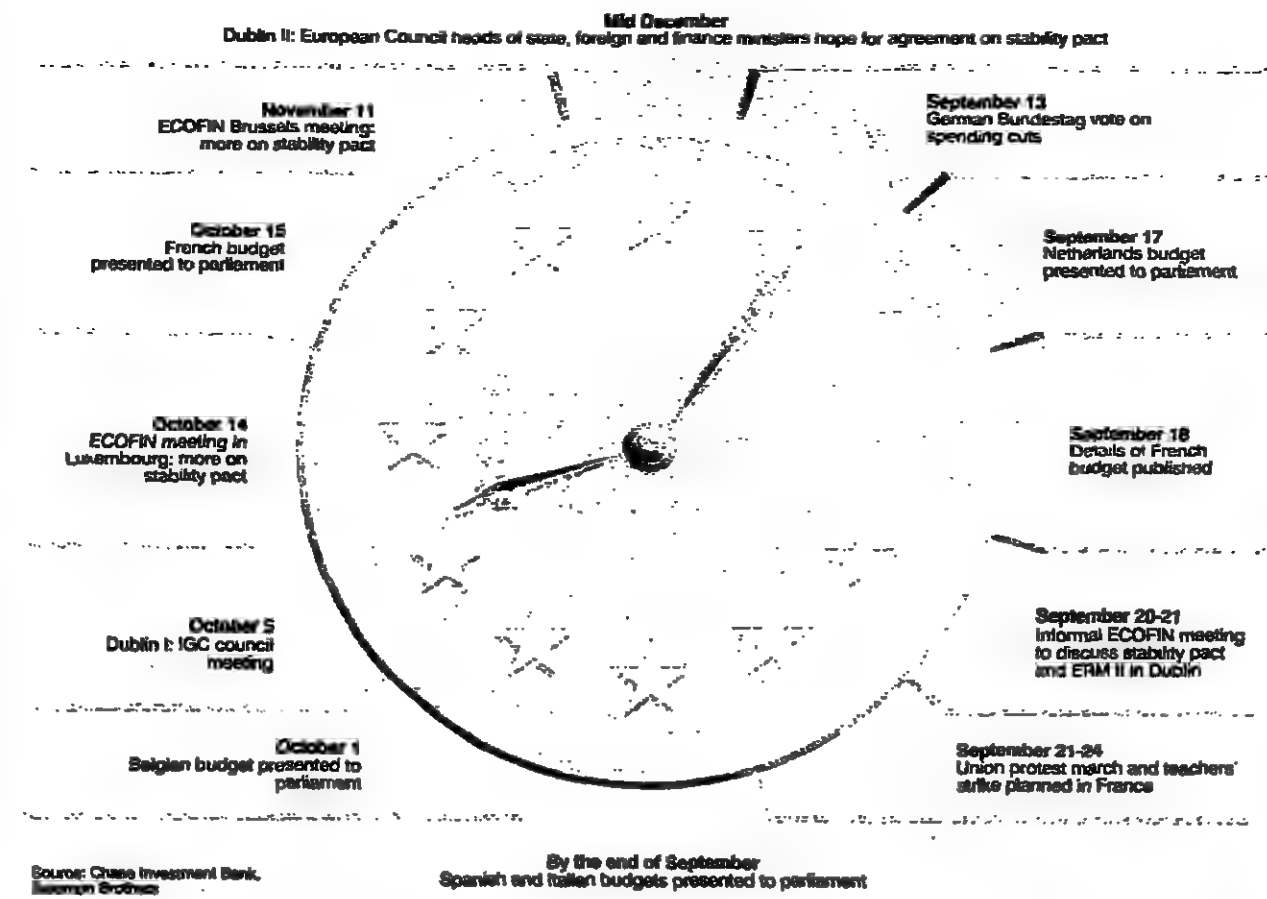
This issue arguably be-

comes more important as interpretation of the Maastricht convergence criteria loosens, and yet there has been little discussion of it. Such talks have occurred but have been highly contentious, with a gulf in thinking between Germany and others. The Bundesbank, in particular, does not want to give up the traditionally strong and stable mark in favour of a Euro whose constituent members fudge economic convergence to join and then refuse to submit to collective discipline after the event.

The Irish Republic wants to mark its EU presidency with progress on this and other issues. The focus of all current discussions is the Dublin summit of heads of government, foreign and finance ministers in December, but it is likely that current discussions will go on well into 1997.

Britain is an important reason to prolong the discussion process. European leaders have already agreed that this year's inter-government conference — the umbrella term for the intensive timetable of meetings on EMU matters — will not end until after the British election. The hope is that a new government led by Tony Blair will be more amenable to signing up to EMU and that it is worth postponing decisions to get Britain on board. That, too, is a proposition yet to be tested.

THE EMU CLOCK IS TICKING

A combination that continues
to stoke the political firesPhilip Bassett examines the link
between the unions, pay and jobs

John Monks, left, and Ian Lang lead opposing camps

Ministers will today announce the latest unemployment figures, hours before Britain's trade unions set their preliminary target for a national minimum wage. Conservative ministers are unlikely to miss the chance to make the connection: minimum wages will cut jobs.

The Government is hopeful that today's set of labour market figures will show a further fall in the level of seasonally adjusted unemployment. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, will through his aides seek to limit any damaging effect on Labour's electoral prospects of the unions setting a precise minimum wage figure in clear defiance of the party leadership's wishes. And the unions at the TUC conference, led by John Monks, the General Secretary, will this afternoon stage what John Edmonds, the GMB general union leader, calls an "indulgence" — debating a minimum wage policy when they know the reality is that, if Labour does win the election, it will be the Government, not the unions, that fixes its level.

But the uneasy combination of events today for Labour and the unions does illustrate the intertwining in the labour market of unions, pay and jobs. Under neo-classical economic theory, if unions push up wages, either through collective bargaining or a shift in public policy such as a minimum wage, companies affected by it will seek to recover their costs by cutting job numbers. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, is certain to seize on today's minimum wage decision by the unions and accuse them of destroying jobs.

Labour and trade union leaders deny this, arguing that there is now clear evidence that a minimum wage in places such as US fast food establishments in New Jersey do not lead to job cuts — but may even have a positive effect on employment. What is the link between unions, pay and jobs? Do heavily unionised areas — geographically, or in sectors of the economy — show clear effects on employment, and pay? Or is the union effect

harder to see? Today *The Times* publishes a computer analysis of data held by the Government on the vexed connection between unions, pay and jobs. Using detailed information from the Government's quarterly Labour Force Survey, a rolling survey of a sample of 60,000 households, *The Times* shows what may be connections between some of the key forces in the economy.

The geographical distribution of trade union membership used to be virtually a matter of guesswork but data from the Government-sponsored Workplace Industrial Relations Survey series, and latterly the LFS, now allows estimates to be made about where union members are — and what their effects might be. The computer analysis indicates that high levels of union density are associated with lower levels of employment growth. There may, of course, be a number of causal explanations for this including labour market and industrial structures, the changing pattern of industry and business and the demographics of the workforce. But without suggesting that unionisation is the cause of lower employment growth, the pattern is star-

ting. Take Wales. With companies such as Sony, Ford and Hitachi investing in the Principality, employment growth has at least to some extent taken up some of the labour market slack created by the all but complete closure of the area's traditional heavy industries such as coal and steel.

Using the latest available LFS figures, Wales has the highest level of unionisation — 44 per cent of employees are union members. But looking at LFS figures on employment change over the past two years Wales is amongst the lowest performing of the UK regions, ranking seventh with employment growth of just 2.4 per cent, or 28,000.

The North, the North West and Scotland are also heavily unionised regions, with densities of 42 per cent in the North and 39 per cent in the other two. All are also poor employment performers — ninth, tenth and eleventh respectively — with employment growth of 1.7 per cent (22,000 up over the period), 0.6 per cent (16,000 up) and 0 per cent over the past two years.

Unemployment seems to have a less clear connection

with union strength, as measured by the statistical proxy of union density. Union density is lowest in areas which are some way from the traditional union citadels of the North, Scotland and Wales: Greater London (eighth in the density ranking, at 30 per cent — a higher figure because of the continuing impact of some heavily unionised industries such as docks and transport), the South West (ninth, at 27 per cent), East Anglia (tenth, at 26 per cent) and the South East (eleventh, at 23 per cent).

Some of these areas have seen sharp falls in unemployment — down 96,000 and 78,000 in Greater London and the South East respectively. Proportionately, though, these falls of 20 and 17.5 per cent over the past two years rank the two regions only fifth and sixth respectively. The North West, an area of high union density, has also seen a fall in unemployment of 78,000 over the period — at 33.7 per cent, the highest proportionate regional drop in the country.

Local labour market conditions are likely to be the overriding factor for pay, so that some weaker union areas such as Greater London and East Anglia have over the past two years seen some of the highest increases in earnings, driven by business growth.

But it is clear, too, that some areas of high unionisation have seen some big earnings growth. The North West — third in the union density league table — has seen by far the sharpest growth in earnings, according to the LFS figures, with as much as 16 per cent, from a weekly average earnings level of £261 to £304. Yet, even with such growth, it lags well behind some other areas, including Greater London which has a level of £396 and the South East with £354.

Union leaders strongly deny any causal connection between a stronger union presence and lower employment growth but, when coupled with earnings and the minimum wage, further ammunition in the war over the role of the trade unions looks again like featuring in the forthcoming general election.

ANTHONY
HARRISThe unanswered
question about
US growth

Can any of you tell me why our economy cannot grow at 4 per cent? President Clinton put this question to the Fed Board at an unofficial meeting when his new appointees joined. What none of them knew then was that the US economy was already growing at well above that rate — 4.8 per cent in the second quarter, on the revised figures. That short burst was absorbed without inflationary mishap: but the pace has slowed since then, so the question remains unanswered. Indeed, there is still a different question to be faced first: will the Fed allow growth to be put to the test, or lose its nerve if the rate picks up again?

The board is already split down the middle. The district presidents, who are practical men, close to industry but remote from technical economics, know that labour market pressures are growing, and they are audibly nervous. But Alan Greenspan, the Clinton appointee and the Fed's economic staff are excited by growing evidence that the restructured US economy is highly resistant to inflation. To pacify the district men, policy is now on red alert — a "tightening bias" means that interest rates can be raised in response to market pressures without waiting for a further FOMC meeting. But they remain reluctant to act unless they are pushed: and this week, the market signally failed to push them.

"Hey, guess what? The bond market thinks a strong economy is good for bonds. We're at risk here. The bond market is dead; it just doesn't know it yet." These words from Bob Brusca, of Nikko Securities, express the frustrations of a prophet justified, yet unheard. Like an inverted Roger Bootle, he has found that a good forecast can be a bad market pointer. Bootle detected falling UK inflation, but bond yields rose. Brusca hailed the strength of the US economy when many observers were still worried about recession. Nearly all of them would now agree that he

was right all along; but yields have not risen.

Some analysts are convinced that growth will soon fall to a somnolent pace again. But some are toying with the Greenspan inflation thesis. This rests partly on recent experience, as one supposed inflation warning after another has been safely passed — unemployment below 6.5 per cent, below 5.5, and now well below 5.5; rising commodity prices (which soon relapsed); and now hourly wage costs rising at over 3.6 per cent. But it also rests on an informed suspicion that the official numbers not only overstate inflation — an old Greenspan thesis they badly understate real growth.

This rests on the known difficulties of measuring services and high-tech output. This could mean that the economy has been growing faster than Clinton's 4 per cent not just in the second quarter, but for some months. It could also be the clinching argument when the district presidents get nervous about labour markets. If growth is understated, productivity is understated by exactly the same amount; and so, by implication, is the manageable growth of wage costs.

Further, the regional breakdown shows that the US labour market is flexible not only in the bargaining sense: it is highly responsive to local pressures. Payroll growth has virtually stopped in the regions with the lowest unemployment, but is growing where the market is slack. This suggests that employers, instead of importing labour to meet local shortages, are expanding selectively where it is still available. Indeed, the US economy is notable not only for non-inflationary growth, but for achieving it during a massive structural change. This is flexibility with neon lights.

Wishful thinking? Perhaps; and certainly vulnerable to any significant pickup in inflation itself. Until then, though, the experiment with what Brusca dismisses as "X-files-like strange happenings" may well continue.

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Copies of the Interim Report for the six months ended 29th June 1996, from which the above is an extract, are available from Tech & Science from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1, Harewood, London WC2B 3SL. Telephone 0171-835 5555.

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Family homes enjoy a recovery

Central London houses lead the way in a survey of prices, writes Rachel Kelly

The most detailed picture of what is happening to house prices in London is shown today in new figures from Winkworth, the capital's largest chain of estate agents. They show the patchiness of the recovery, as the prospects for your des res are determined not simply by the estate agent's mantra — location, location, location — but also by property type.

In general, family houses are doing better than small flats, freehold and long leasehold property better than short leases, and well done-up properties better than their tired or unattractive counterparts. Properties which are blighted in any way, be it by a busy road or a tricky lease, are still languishing. The asking prices may not have fallen, but the actual sales prices are still up to 40 per cent below 1988 levels.

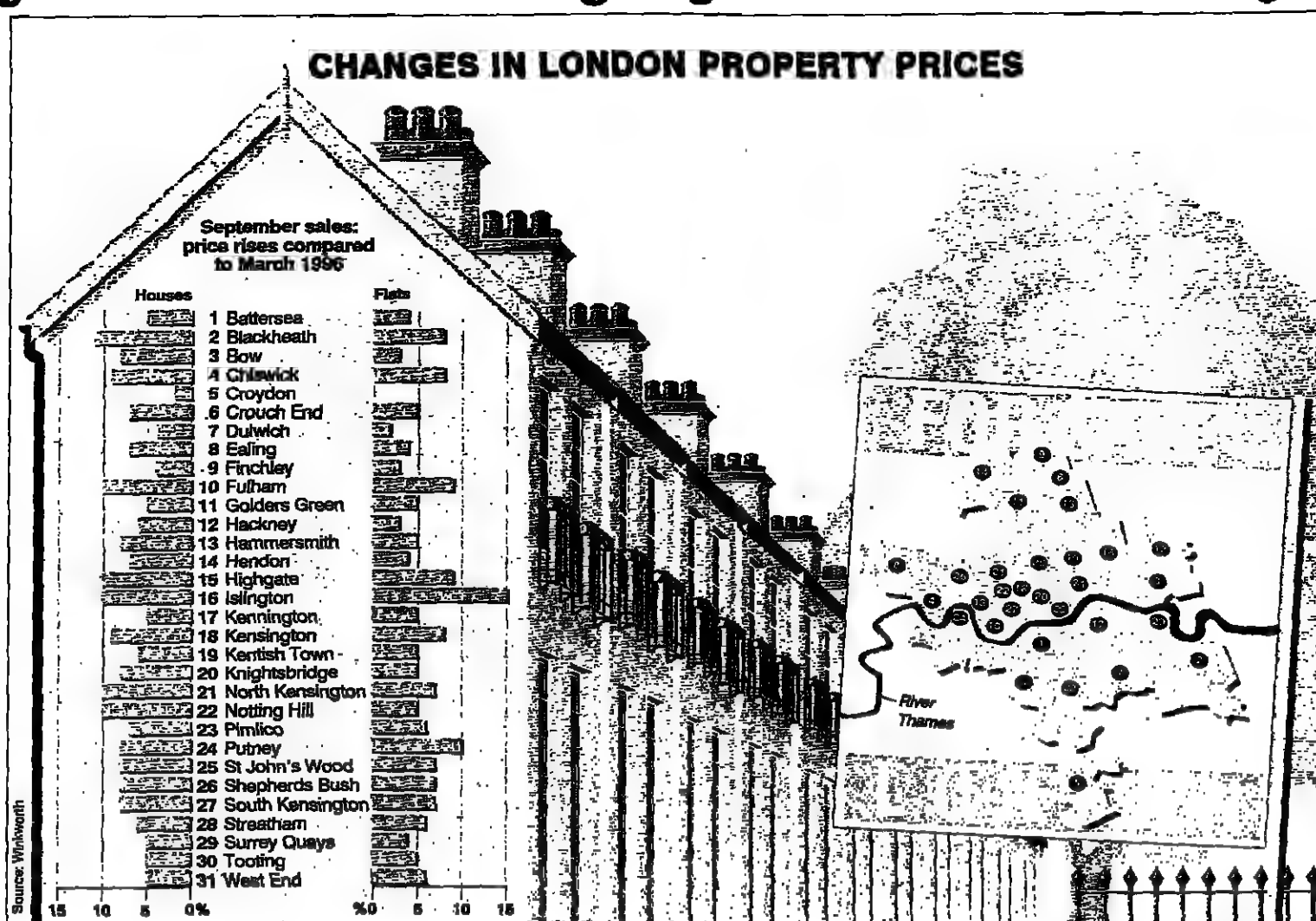
Blackheath, Fulham, Notting Hill, Highgate and Islington are the best performers as the market is fuelled by demand which has built up over the past seven years as families have delayed moving, and further strengthened by low mortgage rates, low inflation, and rising prices.

House prices are up by 10 per cent over the past six months. In Islington, Hilary Wade, the marketing manager of Winkworth, says: "The typical pattern is that couples who have lived in Notting Hill flats for the past few years, and who are now starting families, find they cannot afford the minimum of £500,000 needed to buy a family house."

"So they are moving to less expensive places such as Islington. The migration from Kensington to Islington has been especially marked in the past few months," Winkworth says that prices for flats in the north London borough have risen by 15 per cent in the past six months.

Lorna Vesley from Knight Frank has picked out property on the Phillimore estate and around Victoria Road as the best Kensington performers. Prices in Knightsbridge have risen by 8 per cent over the past six months, says Winkworth; prices up by 10 per cent in Belgravia, where Chester Square and Chesham Place are the most requested streets, says Knight Frank. In St John's Wood, prices are up 8 per cent. Top streets are Avenue Road, Cavendish Avenue, and Norfolk Road.

In contrast, the outer suburbs have not yet experienced a recovery like central London's. Flats in Croydon,



for example, have shown no change in prices over the past six months which, allowing for inflation, means a fall in value in real terms.

Other areas that are suffering include East Dulwich, Peckham, Catford, and parts of Hackney, although Hackney is benefiting from bordering Islington and being close to the City.

Mr Wade says: "The areas that have suffered most in the past seven years are finding that at last house prices are creeping up. But the same is not true for one-bedroom flats, poor conversions and small or scruffy two-bedroom flats." John D. Wood notices a move of well-off families from central London to Wandsworth, Wimbledon, Chiswick and Richmond to be close to day schools. George Pope of John D. Wood says: "In the past, such families might have moved to wherever their eldest child was due to go to boarding school. Now, many more parents are sending their children to London day schools." This change has led to price rises in areas such as Wandsworth, where large family houses can now sell for more than £750,000.

One-bedroom flats are performing

well in Soho, Fitzrovia, and Covent Garden, where the desire to be fashionable combined with the need for a pied-à-terre boosts the market.

In Chelsea, an area not covered by Winkworth, Knight Frank says that prices have risen by more than anywhere else, up by 20 per cent

The areas that have suffered most are at last finding house prices rising

during the past six months. The most popular roads are Tregunter Road, Giltspur Road, Smith Terrace and Cheyne Row. In Mayfair, Knight Frank says that house prices have risen by 5 per cent. Grosvenor Square, Hill Street and Charles Street are faring best. Of course, cynics will carp at such

optimistic figures. But they are probably the best we have. Winkworth has the advantage of selling a greater volume of London property than any other agency, with 31 offices. And as agents point out, London has behaved in a completely different manner from the rest of the country. Knight Frank estimate that London prices are up 9.9 per cent over the last 12 months, while elsewhere they are up by 2.7 per cent.

Other agents add their voices to Winkworth's optimism. Louise Hewlett from Aylesford, which concentrates on properties in Belgravia, Kensington, Knightsbridge and the top end of the market, says: "This has been one of the best years that Aylesford has experienced for 25 years." Mr Pope estimates 10 per cent average price rises since January.

Stephan Miles-Brown, head of residential development at Knight Frank, notes that Clerkenwell, Holborn, Southwark and Spitalfields are all doing well; witness a number of new conversions of moribund commercial buildings to fashionable lofts. Savills, says that July and August have been uncharacteristically busy, and estimates average rises throughout London of 7 per cent since

January. Savills has now increased its forecast of annual rises in London from 4.7 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

But price rises do not mean that it is necessarily an easy market in which to take the plunge. Agents moan about the shortage of good quality property. Increased rents are producing high enough yields to attract investors and speculators in town, and already some areas are finding that they are having to compete with sealed bids.

Rob Thomas, building society analyst with the city firm UBS, says that the number of monthly sales is less than 100,000 in England and Wales, compared with the 1990s' 100,000-plus a month. Last year, the Land Registry recorded 110,025 property sales in Greater London.

So we have not reached 1980s levels, and lack of supply is most endemic in the more pleasant bits of London.

Basically, if you have a well-built, period family home, close to shops, schools and green spaces, it will probably sell in less than a week for close to its asking price. But you will be unlikely to find anything to buy.

Living in fear of being swallowed up by the Earth

Old mineshafts lie below houses — quite where is uncertain

The residents of Westleigh Road, in Combe Down, a small village south of Bath, sleep ill at night: they fear waking to find their house has been swallowed up by the Earth. Rachel Kelly writes. No, this is no tale of the supernatural, but a story of homes that have been built on top of the old mines that provided the stone for Bath's fine houses. The mineshafts have been known to re-open unexpectedly.

Two boarded-up council houses are a nagging reminder that the land may be unstable. As a precaution, council tenants were moved three years ago. Now other homes are starting to crack. More than 40 acres of disused shallow stone mines lie below them.

The problem has long been known about. More than 18 months ago, HM Mines Inspectorate warned the former city council of the possibility of a catastrophic collapse. In 1991 the Environment Department's land-stability branch said the problem should be dealt with urgently.

More than 400 properties could be affected. In places, the load-bearing rock is less than 6ft thick. Yet nothing has been done, nor will it be in the foreseeable future.

Paul Jackson, the chairman of a local forum on the mines, says: "Any solution for stabilising the mines should involve as little infilling as possible. No one wants anything done that would cause the environment long-term damage, and to preserve the character of the mines where we can, developing them as a community asset. If they are well looked after, there will be no difficulty with the properties. Otherwise, there could be problems."

Alan May, who lives in the road, is already having difficulties. He said: "The value of my property has been reduced. It's difficult to sell. More cracks are appearing around the home of another resident, Edward Parry. When the pensioner moved to the road in 1957, he had no idea of the perils below. Part of the problem was that many mines were not marked on maps. It was long assumed in Combe Down that infilling the mines, a job with an estimated cost of £29 million, would be funded by English Partnerships, a government agency. But it has agreed only to share the expense of a cost-benefit analysis, a consultants' study to find the most economical way of making the mines safe."

Nell Carroll, whose Oxford Place house lies above a high hazard area, resents the opposition to PFA. "The money was on the table to stabilise the mines," he said. "It has been taken away because some people in Combe Down looked at a gift horse in the mouth."

It leaves everyone in Combe Down wondering from where the money will come. Robert Mimmack, Bath and North East Somerset Council's development and environmental services director, said: "English Partnerships is an organisation to help to redevelop areas, but it does not see the benefits in Combe Down that it would get from putting money in derelict land elsewhere."

The hope is that there may be a report by the end of this month. The report could argue for the Treasury to allocate money to English Partnerships for the scheme.

Amanda Loose on the result of an eight-month battle to sell Service houses

Last week, a battle that has raged for the past eight months ended. The Ministry of Defence announced that it was selling its married quarters to Annington Homes, a consortium headed by the Japanese bank Nomura International.

With the recent improvement in the market, the Ministry's timing is fortuitous. Its portfolio will be much in demand. Developers are already fighting over 1,250 acres of surplus land at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire. A consortium of Wimpey, Taylor, Woodrow and Westbury plans to build 5,000 homes there.

The MoD is selling at the direction of the Treasury to raise £1.6 billion. The deal is that it will remain the freehold owner of the 57,700 MoD properties in England and Wales. Only their leases have been sold, for 999 years, to Annington Homes.

Surplus housing has been a long-term problem for the MoD. Before the sell-off, 12,000 MoD houses were empty, approximately twice the number of vacant homes needed by the Ministry to accommodate relocations. The hope is that Annington will be better at managing the housing stock than the MoD was. And thanks to the sell-off, the MoD will offload 2,700 homes immediately and gain Treasury funds to upgrade its housing stock.

In turn, the developer gains 2,700 empty homes and will benefit from the rent roll. This will be paid by the MoD for the bulk of the remaining 55,000 homes that it is leasing back with 200-year underleases, and which the MoD will continue to manage. After 25 years, Annington will be able to redevelop sites, subject to local planning permission.

The obvious political sensitivity of the sale has meant that there are strict rules governing what Annington can and cannot do. It will be able to remove Service families from estates, but will have to provide alternative accommodation. It will be able to offer a "site exchange" to the MoD, but only if the alternative estate meets firm conditions.

A spokesman for NatWest Markets, which is handling the sale, said: "MoD houses will be passed on to the new owner only when an entire

A second chance to buy from the Government

block or concentrated area is available. This is at the behest of the Service families, who want to remain together. The new owners will be able to do what they like, because the houses will be in a separate area, perhaps across a road, from the existing military site. Some houses cannot be included in the sell-off, for security reasons. Properties at Windsor cannot be sold because they are on Crown Estate land.

The new owner will have the property skills to develop sites in more remote areas, which the MoD does not have. Some of the houses are a bit dated, but they are structurally sound.

Sales include 50 surplus houses at RAF Brampton in Cambridgeshire. All of the remaining houses at RAF Finningley, in South Yorkshire, will be sold as free-

property ladder; they will move first-time buyers out of rented accommodation.

"Buyers will be able to put their own identity into the house, which will give them collateral, which they can then sell on. This will create second-time buyers, which drives the market."

"My only fear is that because these prices will be effectively subsidised below their market value, it could be difficult for buyers to make their second step up the property ladder."

Richard Haynes of Knight Frank agrees. There will, he says, be demand if the developers get the price right. He adds: "The MoD properties are a mixed bag, but the consortium recognises that it will have to do a lot of work to make some of the houses more attractive and spend some money. But in selected areas, it will be able to do something quite positive. An extensive period will have to be allowed to sell blocks of houses."

"Developers might sell some, then add more community facilities. It will have to be a progressive process. It is a fascinating portfolio."

The Ministry has previously sold some of its surplus properties. Since 1993, about 2,828 MoD houses have been sold, some to individuals and housing associations, but most to property developers. This figure includes just under 100 homes at RAF Finningley last November.



Houses at RAF Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire: developers are competing to buy

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■ OPERA 1
Prima donna of the demi-monde: Rosa Mannion prepares for the Coliseum's *La traviata*



■ OPERA 2
After Zaha Hadid's aborted opera house, Cardiff plans a new bid for lottery money

THE TIMES ARTS



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A serious challenge for Sandra Bullock? Read Geoff Brown on all the latest movies



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OPERA: Hilary Finch on Rosa Mannion, the soprano who sings the doomed heroine in Jonathan Miller's new staging of *La traviata*

A new Violetta for the Coliseum

Eavesdropping in a café not far from the Coliseum. It's a few days into rehearsals for Jonathan Miller's new production of *La traviata* at English National Opera, and there's a heavy scene, between scenes, over a bowl of taco chips. An American singer (judging by his voice, his pocket score) is facing an English doctor of medicine (judging by his expression of concern) who is giving him gentle directorial advice. "Reach out to her, across that vast space between you. As if ... it was all your fault that any of this ever happened."

But of course the New York baritone Christopher Robertson is hardly to blame — and nor is Dr Miller for that matter — for all that Rosa Mannion, singing her first Violetta in this *Traviata*, will suffer in her short life as Verdi's Dame aux camélias. The role of Violetta is, after all, a natural step for Mannion after her Gilda in *Rigoletto* at ENO two years ago; and there's nothing particularly daunting in it for her from a vocal point of view. But, as that café exchange suggested, the production itself is likely to give the withers a wringing.

The relationships are so real, that the temptation is to put all that intensity into the voice," Mannion says. "But the emotions mustn't overwhelm what you do vocally. It's to do with pacing the role."

Pacing her own career is something at which Mannion has shown herself expert. After three years (1989-92) as a principal soprano at ENO, she has been travelling to Lisbon and Amsterdam with John Eliot Gardiner as his Dorabella, to Berlin for Rosenkavalier's Sophie, to Paris, to Salzburg, and to Aix-en-Provence with William

Christie and Les Arts Florissants. While she has felt that ENO has been a welcoming home base, Mannion seems to be yet another example of an English singer offered major roles in big European houses — but not (except for one Pamina) at Covent Garden.

Not that her career has ever been predictable. It began with a sudden veering-off-course. At 18 she gave up her place at the Royal Liverpool Teaching Hospital and rushed to Scotland for a last-minute audition at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music. Three years later she was catapulted into Scottish Opera as Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*; a three-year contract followed.

"I really wasn't prepared for the business. I hadn't a clue how it all worked," she walked into a stack of hoses in Graham Vick's "farmyard" production of the Donizetti, and was knocked unconscious. At five hours' notice she sang Constanze at Glyndebourne. And she sang the role on tour later, five months pregnant and racing off stage after every aria, sick as a dog.

And now, at 34, Violetta. "Yes — a big breath! Violetta is, after all, incredibly bright, incredibly beautiful. And yet, coming from a background of rural poverty, she has no normal way into society. So she has to climb an alternative ladder, in the demi-monde."

"She equates Alfredo — young, innocent, clean-cut — with her health. She thinks that if she throws in her lot with him, it'll bring back her health. When he leaves her, she nosesides to death. And when he returns, she realises that it isn't enough. Her love of him and her love of life part. That's the only way I can make sense of it."

La traviata opens at the Coliseum (0171-632 6300) tomorrow



Rosa Mannion, as Violetta: "The relationships are so real, the temptation is to put all that intensity into the voice. But the emotions mustn't overwhelm what you do vocally"

... and fresh hope in Wales

An opera house may yet be built in Cardiff. Simon Tait reports

NEXT Monday, almost nine months after the Millennium Commission assigned the Cardiff Bay Opera House to the list of National Lottery might-have-beens, a new lottery bid starts its perilous journey through the minefield.

It is for a music theatre to provide a home for Welsh National Opera on the same site, and it is supported by the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC). But there are any similarities with Zaha Hadid's ill-fated "glass necklace" opera house ends.

This is something else: a partnership between an opera company and a national museum for a joint cultural centre. "The Wales Millennium Centre" is its working title, notable for the absence of that tricky word "opera".

The new bid has a 2,000-seat theatre as big as Hadid's. But it also has a waterfront museum for the National Museum of Wales, a new administrative home for WNO, a rehearsal stage, an Imax cinema and a block of shops. In the words of Michael Boyce, chief executive of the CBDC: "It's simply more for less."

The less is the cost, about 75 per cent of the previous scheme which was wound up in March. That scheme, according to Boyce, had its priorities inverted: design first, then purpose, public support and finally finance. The new Wales Millennium Centre Company is starting with finance and working through to design. No architect is likely to be named before the end of September.

Boyce is undismayed by the call from Lord Rogers and the RIBA (in support of Hadid) for architects to boycott the competition to design the new Bay building. "It will not be designed and it will not be

designed by Zaha Hadid. But architectural practices of local, national and international repute have applied," he says.

More than 30 firms have tendered and some on the list are, indeed, very big. "It is outrageous that the architectural profession should seek to dictate who designs buildings," says Boyce, adding that Hadid's design was frankly not liked in Cardiff and, at £94 million, was also expensive.

The new plan is for a building costing maybe £70 million, possibly in the shape of a quadrangle with a central courtyard. And it involves not a single bid but three bids: to the Millennium Fund, the Arts Council of Wales and the National Heritage Lottery Fund.

The official stumbling block last year was the business plan. Cardiff Council saw the original opera house scheme as being in direct competition with a new "millennium" rugby stadium, so it would not pledge revenue funding. But now that the stadium has its promise of lottery money, the council has relented — provided there is no call on the council-tax payer and no programming competition for the council-subsidised New Theatre or St David's Hall.

Boyce is convinced that by November 11, when bids must be in, the plan will be ready. The new hall would open on March 11, 2001.

According to Anthony Freud, the director of WNO, the idea that the building will be only for "elitist" opera is a misconception, given that the opera company will be resident for only 20 weeks of the year. "It was always going to be a multipurpose theatre, a more buoyant and a more appealing place than people supposed," he says.

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CHOICE 1

French music at the Proms under Tortelier's stylish direction

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall



CHOICE 2

Diana Rigg stars in a new staging of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

VENUE: In preview at the Almeida Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

Kent Nagano and the Hallé open Manchester's new concert hall

VENUE: Tonight at Bridgewater Hall



POP

The legends return: Steely Dan thrill their (somewhat mature) fans at Wembley

LONDON

BBC PROMS 18:30. Van Cliburn's recital of Liszt's *Concerto in E-flat major* and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5* — a Proms favourite. With Cliburn, violin, Jean-Yves Thibaudaud, piano, and Valery Gergiev, conductor. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

LAND OF EMILES 18:30. The Vienna Volksoper perform Franz Lehár's operetta, in the original German, which includes the famous aria *You Are My Heart's Delight*. The narrator is Adèle Lutz, and Richard Stamp conducts the Akademie der Musik. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF? Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Sacks' staging of the play. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE 18:30. The Vienna Volksoper perform Franz Lehár's operetta, in the original German, which includes the famous aria *You Are My Heart's Delight*. The narrator is Adèle Lutz, and Richard Stamp conducts the Akademie der Musik. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

BRIGHTON Stage One Theatre Company presents *Shakespeare's Twelfth Night*. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THE ASPEN PAPERS Musical. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

BY JERREES Musical. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

DIAL M FOR MURDER Musical. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT Musical. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THE HEIDI CHRONICLES Musical. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

NEW RELEASES 18:30. *BEANMARCHES* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

FALLING ANGELS (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

HOLLOW REEDS (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

MURKILL AND FALLS (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

CRANK KALMAN (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

INTERNATIONAL ART SUMMER (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

ART GALLERIES (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THEATRES (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

Invited to present two of his best-known works, as part of a gala evening at the Royal Albert Hall, the composer will be followed by the premiere of a new work by George Benjamin. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

CANDIDLY Michael Finner's Celtic dance extravaganza *Land of the Danes* features a variety of traditional Irish and Scottish dances. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

GUILDFORD Frank McGuinness' *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

LEEDS The autumn season opens with *The Cripple*, staged by the Leeds Theatre. Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE 18:30. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoffrey's assessment of what's on release across the country

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3/11/96 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

10/11/96 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

17/11/96 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

24/11/96 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

1/12/96 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

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19/1/97 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

26/1/97 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

2/2/97 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

9/2/97 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

16/2/97 *Notting Hill* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

POP: Steely Dan's return to Britain; plus Heidi Berry in Dublin



Donald Fagen, faithfully reproducing (with Walter Becker and the Steely Dan band) classic hits for a mature audience

Reelin' in the years

Steely Dan's 1974 UK tour was never completed, revisited. They resumed their role of studio gods and continued to craft some of America's most consistently imaginative rock music of that or any era. But by the early 1980s they had left the studio amid disaffected muttering, seemingly never to reconvene.

So as the years of rumoured rapprochement became reality and transatlantic reports were returned of unmistakable Steely Dan sightings, excitement grew among those of us who had made do for a generation with our crackly vinyl editions of *Katy Lied*, *Pretzel Logic*, *Gaucho*, and the rest. Could Walter Becker and Donald Fagen really turn this titanic recording legacy into a real live stage event?

Becker and Fagen, pictures of obnoxious coolness, led a spotless nine-piece band into

Sensual Celtic soundscapes

OF THE multitude of live attractions at this year's *In the City* international music industry convention — held in various venues around Dublin for the first time — few were as promising as Heidi Berry's first headlining show in the Irish capital.

Despite possessing a back catalogue which boasts some of the most evocative and finely crafted music of the past ten years, the elegant English chanteuse has remained a closely guarded secret. Given the dimly lit surroundings, it seemed appropriate that Berry should open with her version of Jesse Collin Young's *Darkness*, a song lifted from her recent album *Miracle*. Indeed, the bulk of the set showcased this

Heidi Berry
Whelan's, Dublin

record, and if its pleasures are a little less immediate than the sensual rapture of its predecessors, that is only because the new songs are wrapped in folk-like, almost Celtic soundscapes, and demand intense engagement rather than passive admiration. A task made all the more manageable by the sound of Berry's captivating voice winding itself sleekly around the words like a spiral staircase, as on *Time*, *Holy Grail* or the title track, *Miracle*.

The band was not as comfortable with

Steely Dan
Wembley Arena

Do It Again, which was not featured on the live record but had undergone a similarly tasteful jazz reinvention that also served well on *Reelin' In The Years* and *Rikki Don't Lose That Number*. Then came *Bad Stealers*, each intro greeted with the frisson of viewing a museum exhibit that suddenly starts moving after 20 years in its case.

No sign, either, of the perceived lofty dissidents of Steely Dan's studio years (perceived).

POP

Steely Dan's return to Britain; plus Heidi Berry in Dublin

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Becker and Fagen, pictures of obnoxious coolness, led a spotless nine-piece band into

Sounds of the north

IT WAS Anne Sofie von Otter who sang the Wembley Hall into spring; and the Swedish mezzo-soprano returned to open a new season which has become quite the most eagerly awaited sign of the start of London's musical autumn.

In April von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg had indulged themselves — and a far from unwilling audience — in an orgy of little-known but rapidly addictive Swedish Golden Age song. They went back to that turning century on Saturday, gently wooing the audience with two songs by Hugo Alfvén from 1908. Sibelius and Grieg followed and in a programme to be completed by Schubert and Strauss, it was these composers' settings of German poets, which dominated.

Sibelius's beloved Finnish nature-poet, Johan Ludvig Runeberg, was not forgotten, though. Von Otter is a great advocate of these still under-performed songs, and the full range of her voice, from the

RECITAL

Von Otter/Forsberg
Wigmore Hall

firm, dark tints of its lower regions to its light, ever-brightening upper register, brought the colours and energies of a mythic Gallen-Kallela canvas to the long narrative of *Under strandens granar* (*Under the trees by the shore*). Originally planned as an orchestral tone-poem, the song plays out a water-nymph's seduction, amid resounding echoes of both the Finnish folk-hero Lemminkäinen and the darker German Erlkönig.

And then the clear mountain air of Grieg. Even when setting the German language, his songs ring with the cadences of his native folksong; and von Otter relishes every minute of it. Her obvious love for this repertoire is beginning to be matched by an ever-deepening engagement with the songs of Schubert. Her brisk, intense performance of *Der Wanderer an den Mond* was thought-provoking: her choice of the harrowing and challenging *Totenfeier* Helmut entirely characteristic.

After four Richard Strauss songs came three encores: a tiny Grieg song; Percy Grainger's *The British Water-side*; and a final, visionary Schubert, *Im Abendrot*.

NICK KELLY

HILARY FINCH

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

INTERNATIONAL ART SUMMER 18:30. *BEANMARCHES* (18). Tickets: £10-15. Proms, 7.30pm.

THEATRES

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THEATRE 1

Diana Quick leads the cast in a West End staging of Diane Samuels's moving *Kindertransport*



THEATRE 2

Herman Melville's dark novella *Bartleby* is superbly adapted for the stage by Red Shift

THE TIMES ARTS



PROMS 1

David Atherton steers Welsh forces through an ebullient night of Spanish music



PROMS 2

... while the TGV, and other modes of travel, is celebrated in music for 3,000 children

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on two successful fringe transfers

Rats in the attic

A new play has opened in the West End. You may wish to read that sentence again, for it contains a statement rarely uttered. Take a glance at the theatre ads opposite: thirty-something major venues, and if the RSC and National are left out of the calculation, and musicals likewise, we have a choice of only nine straight plays, seven of them revivals and the other three, a "saucy comedy" and two thrillers, permanent fixtures.

Without the outlying fringe of smaller theatres London would be offering little new work capable of striking the heart like a match. It was at such a theatre, the Cockpit, off Lisson Grove, that Diane Samuels's *Kindertransport* blazed into the memory of those who saw it in 1993. At long last, and after production in New York and five other American cities, in Austria, Germany and Sweden, the play has managed to reach

Kindertransport Vaudeville

a commercial theatre in the West End, where it is again directed by Abigail Morris, whose Soho Theatre Company first presented it. Her production was seen at Watford earlier this year.

Thanks to Robert Browning, Brions who have not actually met a rat-catcher picture him dressed in red and yellow, playing a pipe to lure rodents to the river or children into a mountain cave. On the Continent he is altogether more sinister, and the story of *der Rattenfänger* terrifies eight-year-old Eva when her mother reads it to her.

Eva is menaced by other horrors, for this is Hamburg in 1938 and her family is Jewish. After *Kristallnacht* her mother (Sian Thomas) makes the agonising decision to send her to the safety of England, assuring her that she and the

child's father will follow shortly. War breaks out before they can do so, and the play raises this fearful, unanswerable question: Would the children who never saw their parents again have been — how can one put this? — happier in the long run, to have died with their families in the camps?

Samuels sets her play in the attic of the comfortable Manchester house now owned by middle-aged Evelyn, the brittle, chilling woman Eva grew up to become. Her own daughter Faith (Dido Miles) is setting up home and Evelyn is examining the neatly packed boxes — everything in her life must be neat — to supply Faith's material needs.

Her emotional needs she has difficulty supplying, for the past must be concealed, at all costs. Eventually the child-destroying rat-catcher is identified, shockingly, as everyone who once felt they were acting as the child's saviour.

In Morris's smoothly flowing production the play's ca-

thartic power is so strong that occasional stiffnesses in the writing are cavils too minor to irritate. Diana Quick's brusque Evelyn also begins stiffly until, with her cry of alarm at the resurfacing past, she sends shivers down the spine. What Samuels does so well is blend past and present time, so that Jean Boht's Lil, the good-hearted, no-nonsense woman who adopts the child, telescopes 40 years into a single breath. Julia Malewsky's Eva, her heart deadened, pines on a pile of suitcases staring at the person she became.

The extra turn of the screw comes when, against all odds, Eva's mother survives the war. The rear wall of Tom Piper's set flies up and Thomas, fearfully changed, walks cautiously to meet the daughter who dares not welcome her. The last request she makes of the child echoes in the memory as an expression of the pain and dignity this play so honestly reaches.



Nigel Hastings (Ratcatcher), Julia Malewsky (Eva), Jean Boht (Lil) and Diana Quick (Evelyn) in *Kindertransport*

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

The British Museum's magnificent *Mysteries of Ancient China* show opens on Friday. Richard Cork continues a daily series highlighting the exhibition's glories



Human-like head

ALTHOUGH this outstanding sculpture was discovered with 40 other heads in a pit at Sanxingdui, only two of them are decorated with gold leaf. So the features depicted here might belong to someone with an exalted status. His ears project sharply from his head, prominent enough to suggest an unusual ability to detect sounds at a great distance. He seems to widen his mouth in a confident smile, but there is something sinister about the extreme thinness of his lips.

This is, surely, an implacable man. His eyes, untouched by the gold leaf, are rendered as stylised lines. They appear to be all-seeing, and the green bronze brows above them stretch in expansive curves across his forehead.

When the head was first buried around 1200 BC, the gold would have extended to the base of his chin. Only the long neck, the eyes and brows would have been left untouched, and the head was probably crowned by a cap. He would have appeared even more impersonal than he does now. The gold leaf gleams in the light, suggesting either supernatural powers or the capacity to thrive in the spirit world.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, opens at the British Museum on Friday and continues to Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000.

TOMORROW

An imaginary creature depicted in the 5th century BC

Wall St blues

MELVILLE's novella *Bartleby* tells of a mild-mannered young man who obtains a position in a respectable Wall Street law office, where he works with sober efficiency until, one day, he finds he can do so no longer. When his employer, Mr Standard, asks the reason, all he will answer is: "I would prefer not to."

He sits at his desk; he stands staring out of the window; he does nothing. The other clerks are variously outraged but months pass before Standard, a man of compassion, can bring himself to dismiss the man. When Bartleby won't leave the premises Standard is obliged to move his firm elsewhere. Bartleby is conveyed to prison where, courteous to the end, he perishes.

We are left to assume that he became paralysed with horror at the endless dreary

Bartleby Pleasance, King's Cross

life of a copy-clerk, trapped in a street of walls. His polite expression of revolt disconcerts a system that requires unquestioning subservience, and in Jonathan Holloway's production for Red Shift, Simon Sturkin, with his strangely unfocused gaze upon his anxious employer (Edward Haistead, excellent), he conveys passive desperation to a quite astonishing degree.

The entire production was one of the strongest offerings of this year's Edinburgh Fringe, and Larry Lane's adaptation preserves the artful delicacy in Melville's storytelling. Recommended.

BBC PROMS: The BBC National Orchestra of Wales in Spanish mood; plus a whistle-stop tour at the Junior Prom

Enjoyable nights of novelty

FOR its final pair of Proms the BBC National Orchestra of Wales belatedly its chief guest conductor, David Atherton, on Sunday night and its conductor laureate, Tadaaki Otaka, on Monday, Barry Millington writes. The Spanish theme ran prominently through the former concert, with Rimsky-Korsakov's *Capriccio espagnol*, de Falla's *El Amor Brujo*, and a real novelty: Five Negro Songs by the Catalan composer Xavier Montsalvage.

The jazz rhythms and harmonies of the Negro Songs recalled Milhaud, but what made them special was the subtlety of scoring, lending a wonderfully smoky, positively louche air to several of them. Particularly delightful was the *Lullaby for a Little Black Boy*, crooned by Della Jones in the manner born. Jones was also the soloist in the Falla, bringing her worldly wise delivery to the *Song of Painful Love* and other vocal items. Atherton secured warm coloration from the orchestra and enough rhythmic impetus in the *Ritual Fire Dance* to galvanise the attention without pummeling the listener.

Colour is a dominant concern in Takemitsu's composi-

tions, not least in *Star-isle*, the first work of the concert under Otaka. I enjoyed Otaka's sympathetic handling of this short but graphically atmospheric score. Less gratifying was the account of Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No 3, with Leli Ove Andneses the inexpressive soloist.

Anthony Powers's *Symphony*, commissioned by the David James Music Trust and receiving its world premiere, is a substantial, four-movement work. Some of the primary material is not unduly promising — the ungrateful writing for horns was not helped by the slithery execution — but Powers makes imaginative use of it. It returns to satisfying effect in the finale, before which there have been two movements even more impressive: an invigorating Scherzo in which hunks of sax-driven sound are hurled around, and a long-breathed, richly sonorous elegy.

THERE were some complaints, I believe, that at the Proms Family Concert a fort-

night ago there was no friendly presenter on hand. Hilary Finch writes. Well, at the Junior Prom (the first ever of its kind, and featuring at least 3,000 children), Tony Robinson was the longest-for-disc jockey-cum-courier as the BBC Concert Orchestra, con-

ducted by Ronald Corp, spun off *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

It was fast and loud, and so was he. But he was not misled. If there really do have to be Children's Concerts then this Junior Prom turned out to be as creditable as any. There

was, blissfully, no dissection: either of the orchestra itself or of the music. Instead, entire and exciting pieces were allowed to speak for themselves. The whistle-stop tour sped from Portsmouth (Pine-

apple Pol) to France (Offenbach's *Can-Can*) via the MG (Michael Nyman's *Musique d'Grande Vitesse*) with the greatest of ease because of, rather than despite, Robinson's links.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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A Personal Assistant is required to support the Principal - owing to the retirement of the present post holder - particularly in terms of acting as the link with the many people who need to communicate with him. The ability to understand complex situations and communicate them to and from the Principal is of great importance. The post also involves managing the diary, arranging meetings and organising events. A Senior Secretary provides most of the secretarial support.

The successful applicant will have experience working as a Personal Assistant to a chief executive; excellent organisational skills; exceptionally high standards of English usage; mastery of computer skills; and the ability to come to understand in great detail the way in which the College works. The appointee will be socially poised, articulate, friendly and professional in approach with a mature outlook and be calm under pressure.

For further particulars and an application form, please contact our 24-hour recruitment line on 0171 975 5171, quoting Reference 96643. Your application should be returned by Friday 27 September and should be addressed to the Personnel Officer, Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London, London E1 4NS.

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RUGBY UNION

England rule out Australia bid for tour finale

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CONFUSION within rugby union is not confined to the British Isles. Yesterday, one end of the world believed an international match between England and Australia would take place at Twickenham on December 7 while, at the other end, the fixture was denied, albeit with some reluctance.

Discussions, which began at the International Rugby Football Board's tour committee meeting in Cardiff last week, ended with the announcement in Sydney of an additional match in the tour by Australia to Italy, Scotland, Ireland and Wales this autumn. The traditional game with the Barbarians was to be shunted back to midweek, John O'Neill claimed, and the touring side would play England on the Saturday instead.

Not only that. According to O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Union's chief executive, there will be a grand-slam tour of

Britain and Ireland every four years. "We are delighted by this outcome," O'Neill said, though surprise was more the emotion of his counterparts in the northern hemisphere.

Ray Williams, chairman of the four home unions' tour committee, hastened to redress the balance with the full support of the Rugby Football Union (RFU). "A proposal was put to a recent meeting of the committee that Australia play England rather than the Barbarians on December 7," Williams said. "But the Barbarians' match against the touring team is a very special fixture. It was agreed that it was not possible to change the international calendar at such short notice."

"We did look very hard at a number of alternative ways in which a grand-slam fixture might be accommodated, but the difficulties were insurmountable. Over 30,000 tick-

ets have already been sold for the Barbarians' match at Twickenham and, all in all, we consider it in the best interests of all four home unions that the present arrangements stand."

The fact that England have a full first-division league programme on December 7 may also have been germane to the argument, given the poor state of relationships between the RFU and the leading clubs. The clubs, assuming they have not broken away entirely and denied their players international matches by then, are already destined to lose their leading lights to England for a fortnight when the national team plays Italy (November 23) and the New Zealand Barbarians (November 30), and for a further week prior to the game against Argentina (December 14).

An RFU spokesman admitted that a fixture with Australia would be hugely attractive. "But there is an equal attraction for the Barbarians game and the club's proposal to support the Barbarians," he added. As matters stand, the Australians will play Italy (October 23), Scotland (November 9), Ireland (November 23) and Wales (December 1).

But O'Neill did make the point that the southern-hemisphere powers could not rely exclusively on fixtures with each other. "I think we recognise Australia playing New Zealand and South Africa all the time is not for the betterment of the game," he said. "If there is this perceived gap [in playing standards] — and I think the results show there is a gap between southern and northern-hemisphere rugby — the way to close it is to play each other more regularly."

Wales will name a squad today for the game with France, in Cardiff on September 25. The Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) believed it had in place an arrangement with BBC Wales and S4C, the Welsh language channel, to cover the game between Neath and Bristol last night, and the one at Bridgend



Midweek View

And for a moment the thought occurred, perhaps the old farts were right after all. On Sunday I was with 8,000 people watching 30 men playing professional rugby union at a football ground, and the talk was all of big money and big hits, television revenue and the next superstar signing.

The farts have been blown away by the typhoons and hurricanes of change. Rugby union has gone spinning and reeling into the post-fartist world, where the sport you love is called "the product", its unique beauties are called "the image" and the standard wisdom of the time is that "we're part of the entertainment industry". And everywhere, men in sharp suits or sponsored boots are dancing on the grave of fartism.

Fartism must not pass unmentioned. Certainly, fartism, as sketched by that stray remark of Will Carling's, has been for years a nonsense. But like many other nonsenses, fartism has at its heart an important truth.

True fartism was, of course, a hypocrisy. It was based on an untruth: that rugby union was an amateur game. Fartism believed its own lie: that payment by backhand and favour was morally superior to a wage. The game became an increasingly crazy and tottering structure, and, in the end, it had to collapse.

And so rugby union is now a professional sport, like rugby league, like football, like Formula One motor racing. Which is all very well as far as the end of hypocrisy goes. But

at the heart of fartism was the kernel of truth: that there is some good in real amateurism.

Let us go back to Formula One and to Damon Hill as he clipped the tyres at the chicane during the Italian Grand Prix last Sunday. One moment he had the world championship in his hand; the next, as if he were a man seizing a handful of water, it had gone.

He was wearing overalls, fireproof boots and a huge helmet, the camera only caught him in long-shot, and yet it was impossible to miss his despair. The carriage of the head said it all. This was not the disappointment of a man having a bit of fun on a Sunday afternoon. No, this was deep and bitter anguish.

This was a man whose entire life, his entire being, his entire conception of his place in the universe depends on his prowess at driving in motor-car races. An error cannot be laughed off, for it asks the most profound and uncomfortable questions about the

nature and meaning of his life. That is why Formula One is riveting to so many people; that is why sport commands such massive worldwide attention. We see people playing spectacular games for the highest possible stakes. And their elation and their despair fills our screens, our living rooms, our minds. And it is, in a way, too much.

Ask a professional actor about the difference between professional and amateur theatre, and you will always get the same answer. One has as its priority the pleasure of the audience, the other the pleasure of the cast.

As an amateur, you can take defeat and victory in your stride and know them for the impostors they are, because for you, it does not matter. That glorious cross-country ride at Ponon, that defiance of the Nelly Bird XI, that saving of Mark Wong's penalty: simple joys I have known from simple kids' games.

Modern sport does not begin to compare with such things, with such a time. It is professional, and therefore, intense to the point of lunacy and beyond. Sport was never intended to bear such things, the weight of the ambitions of a lifetime of a nation. But it does, and from that lunacy comes the compelling nature of modern professional sport.

We live in an age of sporting madness, as any unbiased skimming of these pages will tell you. No professional rugby union player will have a light heart this weekend: it is more than his job is worth. Rugby, like every other elite sport, cannot possess the simple light-hearted joys that every amateur knows.

That thing that the old farts valued had already been gone for years from elite rugby union, but that did not mean it was worthless. We who play for simple-minded fun, we who play from mere childish delight, possess something that the great athletes of the world can never know.

Had my life, or my livelihood, or my sense of self-worth depended on such moments, how much greater would have been my triumph? And how much greater my despair at that riderless refusal, that dropped catch, that missed cross? No, Ghostly. Doesn't bear thinking about.

Sports were not supposed to be played for such high stakes. They were always supposed to be a bit of fun; laugh off both victory and defeat with a quip and handshake, and a shared beer. Games are there to play intensely, in the knowledge that neither victory nor defeat really matters. And so you lose for an afternoon the responsibilities of adulthood in a child's game.

All sport was once like this: what you did as well. Think of C. B. Fry, who played cricket and football for England and, as a little bonus, held the world long jump record for 21 years. But he was not a professional sportsman: what he was, was a classicist. Sport was what he did as well.

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TENNIS: MILLIGAN PRODUCES COURAGEOUS PERFORMANCE BUT GOES OUT AGAINST SECOND SEED AT BOURNEMOUTH

Rusedski benefits on day of mixed fortune for Britons

By ALIX RAMSAY

EVERY best-laid plan can go awry, especially when the plans involve playing tennis during what passes for the British summer. In a chill and overcast Bournemouth, Andrei Medvedev, the No 4 seed, was sent packing by Tom Kemper, a qualifier ranked 512 in the world. Greg Rusedski was preparing for a tough first-round match against Joao Cunha-Silva, only to face a last-minute replacement, while the No 2 seed, Felix Mantilla, had to work much harder than he thought to get past Luke Milligan. It was that sort of day.

At things considered, Rusedski fared better than most. Ten minutes before he was due to go on court, he was told that Cunha-Silva, from Portugal, had an injured knee and had pulled out. His place was taken by Bernardo Moia, also from Lisbon, but ranked 327, a fact that made Rusedski's day a lot brighter — "actually I was quite pleased," he said with the customary grin. No wonder: he dismantled Moia's challenge, 6-1, 6-2, in a fraction under an hour.

It has been a disappointing year for Rusedski so far. He has almost done well, pushing Becker, Sampras, Courier and Rosset to the limit but never quite making the breakthrough. Meanwhile, his ranking has slipped to 75 while Tim Henman has stolen the limelight and the computer points. Suddenly the novelty seems to have worn off both Rusedski and his career.

"It all has to do with maturing as a player," he said.

"Your first year or two on the tour you are not expecting to beat the big players, you're more relaxed and it is easier to concentrate. I think, at the moment, my concentration has to be at a higher level. I'm not losing matches because of my game, but because of the mental side."

Not that Moia was going to tax Rusedski's intellect too much. Serving better than he has managed in the past few weeks, sending down ten aces, he was simply too good for Moia. But with Rusedski there is always the danger that his game-plan can have the subtlety of a sledgehammer with the touch to match. Against Daniel Orsanic, from Argentina, he may not find life quite so easy.

It certainly was not easy for Medvedev. For two hours, he struggled to get to grips with the green clay beneath his feet and failed miserably, losing 6-7, 6-4, 6-2 to Kemper, of Holland. By his standard, it has been an unhappy year for Medvedev. Two years ago, he was ranked No 4 in the world.



Bruguera: straight-sets win

now he languishes at 31 with only one title to his name this year.

"Transferring from the hard courts at the US Open to clay has been difficult. For some reason, I couldn't adjust," he said. "This is my first time on green clay and it is very different from red. It is slower and harder to make winners."

Milligan's day was better than he had expected. Playing Mantilla, the No 2 seed and No 16 in the world, he put up a fine fight but could not match the power of the 21-year-old Spaniard and lost 6-4, 6-1. His plan had been to trade shots from the baseline for a couple of games to see what Mantilla could do and then take a few risks to see if he could stop him. Sometimes it worked, more often it did not. But in all, Milligan was not too upset.

His summer has been productive, reaching the third round at Wimbledon and claiming his place in the Britain Davis Cup squad. But although the brief spell in the headlines was enjoyable, Milligan's present aim is a little more down to earth. His ranking is not affected by his fame and his next goal is to break into the top 100 and out of the round of challenger tournaments.

But before that — "I have four tournaments coming up where, hopefully, I can get my ranking up" — there is that matter of the Davis Cup in ten days' time.

In one of the few matches to go according to the form book, Sergi Bruguera, of Spain, the No 5 seed, beat Nuno Marques, of Portugal, 6-1, 6-2.



Rusedski launches a powerful service on his way to victory over the replacement, Moia

FOR THE RECORD

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL) Green Bay 39 Philadelphia 13

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Milwaukee 6 Boston 4, Cleveland 4 California 3 Baltimore 5 Detroit 4 Texas 4 Toronto 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York 6 Florida 3 Chicago 3 Montreal 1 Colorado 4 Houston 2 Los Angeles 7 Cincinnati 2 San Diego 6 Pittsburgh 5 St Louis 6 San Francisco 2

BOWLS

ENGLISH BOWLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS: Singles: E. Furse (Somerset) vs J. Dowler (Hampshire) 21-4; A. Azis (Worcestershire) vs P. Bryant (Berkshire) 21-12; G. Tys (Sussex) vs J. Pegg (Suffolk) 21-5; W. Hayward (Sussex) vs G. George (Lancashire) 21-16; P. Bryant vs J. Pegg 21-12; J. Pegg vs W. Hayward 21-5; J. Pegg vs W. Hayward 21-5; J. Pegg vs W. Hayward 21-5

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CRICKET: ENGLAND TRUST IN SILVERWOOD'S PROMISE AND NEW-FOUND MATURITY OF AN OLDER MAVERICK

Hussain identified as Atherton's heir

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE accession of Nasser Hussain to the England captaincy and the restoration of Philip Tufnell as a Test-match spin bowler would once have been considered an implausible double. The prospect, however, was advanced yesterday when Hussain was named as vice-captain of the 15-man party to tour Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter, and Tufnell was included among his travelling companions.

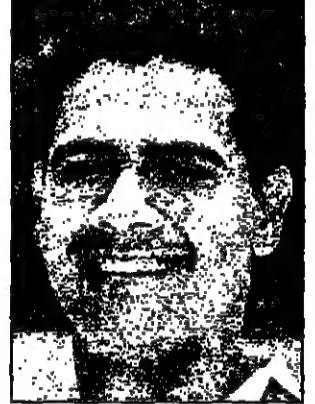
Hussain and Tufnell are volatile characters who have had to undergo similar conversions. Plainly, the selectors believe in Hussain's new maturity, for they have now officially identified him as the heir to Michael Atherton's job. For Tufnell, selection represents an unlikely reprieve, a last opportunity to harness an acceptable approach to undeniable talent.

The same privilege was not, however, extended to Chris Lewis. Despite playing all six Tests this summer, he has not been forgiven for turning up late at the Oval and has much to do to revive his England career. So, too, does Graeme Hick, an automatic selection at the start of the year but rating barely a mention now.

"I have got at least one more comeback in me," was Lewis's defiant response to exclusion. He may find that the selectors disagree and they also appear to have formed a firm view about Hick's position. Soon after hearing confirmation that he would not be touring his homeland yesterday, Hick was out for nought to a 17-year-old making his debut for Nottinghamshire. It was symbolic of his shocking summer.

Notable among others contentiously omitted is Peter Martin, but it is refreshing and progressive that his place on the senior tour has gone to Chris Silverwood, 21, the main beneficiary of the youth policy that was Raymond Illingworth's parting wish as chairman of selectors.

Illingworth, who retires from the post with "some sadness and disappointment", chaired his last meeting on Monday evening and it took the panel a little over two hours to come up with the two tour parties. The chairman's desire for a young A team was fulfilled: six of the 14 chosen for the trip to Australia are 23 or under and Owais Shah, of Middlesex, is only 17 and still at school. The team will be led by Adam Holoake, of Surrey, 25 last week and a long-term candidate to captain the Test side.



Shah: surprise choice

TOUR ITINERARIES

ENGLAND
ZIMBABWE: Nov 30 v Debutants (Harare). Dec 1 v President's XI (Harare). 3-4 v Mashonaland (Harare). 5-6 v Midlands (Bulawayo). 10-12 v Mashonaland (Bulawayo). 13-14 v Zimbabwe, first one-day international (Bulawayo). 15-16 v Zimbabwe, second one-day international (Harare). 17-18 v Zimbabwe, third one-day international (Harare).
NEW ZEALAND: Jan 10 v NZ Academy XI (New Plymouth). 13-15 v Select XI (Palmerston North). 16-17 v Northern Districts (Auckland). 24-26 v New Zealand, first Test (Auckland). 28-Feb v New Zealand A (Wanganui). 8-10 v New Zealand, second Test (Wellington). 14-16 v New Zealand, third Test (Wellington). 28 v New Zealand, first one-day international (Christchurch). 29 v New Zealand, second one-day international (Auckland). 30 v New Zealand, third one-day international (Auckland). 1-2 v New Zealand, fourth one-day international (Auckland). 4 v New Zealand, fifth one-day international (Wellington).

ENGLAND A

AUSTRALIA: Oct 21-Nov 3 v New South Wales Second XI (Tarragong). 6 v South Australia (Adelaide). 8-11 v South Australia (Adelaide). 15-18 v Australian Cricket Academy (Mount Gambier). 21-24 v Victoria (Melbourne). 28 v Australia Capital Territory (Canberra). 30-Dec v Australia Capital Territory (Canberra). Dec 31 v New South Wales (Sydney). 7 v New South Wales (Woolongong). 10-12 v Queensland (Brisbane).

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TOUR PARTIES

ENGLAND
M A Atherton (Lancashire, captain)
N Hussain (Essex, vice-captain)
A R Caddick (Somerset)
D G Cork (Derbyshire)
P C Cowie (Lancashire)
R D B Croft (Somerset)
D Gough (Northamptonshire)
R C Gurney (Essex)
N V Knight (Warwickshire)
A K Mullen (Lancashire)
A C Russell (Gloucestershire)
C E W Silverwood (Nottinghamshire)
A J Smith (Surrey)
G P Thorpe (Surrey)
P R Tufnell (Middlesex)

TOUR MANAGER: JRT Barclay, Coach: D Jones, Physiotherapist: W P Morton, Scorer: M M Ashton.

ENGLAND A

A J Holoake (Surrey, captain)
M A Buttner (Surrey)
M A Ealham (Leicestershire)
A C Hogg (Lancashire)
A J Harris (Derbyshire)
D W Headley (Kent)
D W Hogg (Lancashire)
A C Hogg (Lancashire)
P M Smith (Essex)
M P Vaughan (Yorkshire)
C White (Yorkshire)

TOUR MANAGER: D A Graveney, Coach: G A Gooch, Physiotherapist: D Conway

differences with the Test and County Cricket Board. Among Lloyd's most exacting tasks, and one he will doubtless share with his assistant, John Emburey, will be the careful handling of Tufnell.

Illingworth did not attempt to disguise the unofficial prohibition order that has hung over Tufnell since his bizarre conduct on the tour of Australia two winters ago. There had been a tacit agreement that he should not be taken overseas again and so, Illingworth said, "there was not much point in picking him for home games".

Partly through the shortcomings of other spin bowlers, but more pertinently because it is believed he has reformed, Tufnell re-emerged as a candidate for this tour. Once the right soundings had been taken, and comforting endorsements received, the rest was relatively easy, for nobody seriously disputes that he is the best slow bowler in the country.

Atherton supported his selection after being one of his 13 victims in a championship game at Old Trafford last week. During that match, Atherton consulted Mike Gatting, Tufnell's captain at Middlesex, and it was this reference, according to Illingworth, which "ripped the scales". Tufnell will tour, however, with a clear warning about any further misconduct. "It is up to him to show us that he can stay with it this time," Illingworth said.

There are no such doubts about the temperament of Silverwood, a solid, uncomplicated player, who has bowled superbly with the new ball throughout Yorkshire's successful season. "There is a lot of Brian Statham in him," Illingworth said, "He loves to bowl, and if he beats the bat, he just turns round and gets back to his mark."

This has not always been the case with Dominic Cork, but it is not for his habitual theatricals that his touring programme is still in doubt. The likelihood is that he will make the full trip but it is to be left to the team management to decide, nearer departure time, whether it would benefit him more to stay in England for some of the Zimbabwe leg.

The welcome return of Darren Gough and Andy Caddick completed the team attack and the liveliest discussion of the evening concerned the all-rounder's position. It went to Ronnie Irani, with both Mark Ealham and Craig White being chosen for the A team, and Illingworth suggested the deciding factor was an indefinable aspect of his approach. "If you work with Irani, you realise how much he wants it," he said. "He is the best batsman of the contenders and now he has to work on his bowling."

Illingworth intends to be lapping up the winter sunshine at his Spanish villa while England are away on tour but he made it plain that he does not expect to be hearing of their demise. "We should win and win well," he said. "If we don't, we've got real problems."



Tufnell, right, and his mentor, Emburey, look forward to a productive tour yesterday

Wayward Tufnell given one last chance to prove himself

Alan Lee welcomes a tour recall for the Middlesex spinner

English sport makes a habit of distancing itself from potential trouble by alienating its maverick characters. Yesterday, however, Philip Tufnell, whose cricket career has flourished in conformity in every way, discovered he was no longer an outcast.

Tufnell, whose conduct and approach infuriated successive England managements to the point when it was implicit that he would not be taken on tour again, was named in the 15-man party to visit Zimbabwe and New Zealand this winter.

In announcing this remarkable reprieve, Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, explained: "He did not have a good tour in Australia two years ago but he has served a fair, long sentence. We have been assured that he has improved in the directions we wanted him to."

This ambiguous diplomacy did not concern Tufnell's cricketing ability, which has never been greatly in doubt. It means that he is being given a final chance to prove that, at 30, he has grown up. It may also mean that the selectors have wearied of punishing themselves, as well as Tufnell, by picking patently inferior spin bowlers.

On the last Australian tour, in November 1994, Tufnell came close to being sent home after going missing for 24 hours. It transpired that he had spent the night in a psychiatric unit after reacting severely to some domestic worries.

Earlier that year, Tufnell had been jailed for a night and subsequently charged with assaulting his former fiancée, his county, Middlesex, allowed him two months' leave to put his affairs in order, a compassionate response from a club that has done all in its power to reform its wayward talent.

Tufnell has never been far from controversy. He was asked to leave his public school, Highgate, after a series of misdemeanours and his ten years in cricket have been punctuated by instances of his volatile nature.

It is on tour that he has been a trial to his team-mates, however. He received fines in both India, in 1992, and Australia, and drove Graham Gooch, the former captain, to distraction. Gooch is a member of the current selection panel and will have needed more persuasion than most of Tufnell's conversion.

Tufnell said yesterday: "I know there are people who think I have been difficult on tour and there are a few things I regret. But I have put all that behind me now and I just want to play for England." Intriguingly, for one whose image is essentially beer and flags, he says he now spends more time in garden centres than his local pub.

There are enough endorsements on Tufnell's touring licence to ensure that he will be sent home if he steps out of line just once this winter. But nobody can doubt that he is back because he is the best spin bowler available. Since 1990, England have won only four overseas Test matches and Tufnell has played a prominent part in them all.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

AXA Equity & Law League

Warwickshire v Essex

ESSEX: D D J Robinson (lbw b Brown) 0, A P Grayson (not out) 7, N Hussain (lbw b Brown) 40, P J Prichard (c Munton b Welch) 17, T P Hodgson (c Perrey b Small) 0, J B Lewis (not out) 4, T B Hyatt (not out) 0, M C Rott (c Perrey b Small) 0, A P Cowen (not out) 22, Extras (b 1, lb 3, w 1) 5, Total (4 wickets, 40 overs) 138.

S J W Andrew and P M Smith did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-12, 3-44, 4-58, 5-74, 6-75, 7-77.

SCORING: Hussain 8-3-28-0, Brown 8-3-22-1, Welch 5-0-16-1, Small 5-0-30-2, Giles 8-1-19-1, Smith 3-1-19-0.

WARWICKSHIRE

W G Khan (c Hussain b Rott) 28, N M K Smith (c Rott b Grayson) 40, M Burns (c Rott b Grayson) 4, D R Brown (c and b Cowen) 8, T J Perrey (not out) 38, T K Piper (not out) 7, Extras (b 4, w 4) 8, Total (4 wickets, 34.2 overs) 142.

N V Knight, G Welch, A F Gales, G C Small and T A Munton did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-71, 3-85, 4-117.

SCORING: Khan 6-0-26-1, Andrew 8-0-26-0, Small 8-0-31-0, Cowen 8-0-36-2, Grayson 6-0-15-1, Lewis 0-2-0-4-0.

Umpires: K E Palmer and G Sharp.

Tetley Bitter Trophy

Nottinghamshire v Worcestershire

SCARBOROUGH: Worcestershire won toss. Worcestershire beat Nottinghamshire by 13 runs.

Worcestershire: T M Moody (c Noon b Franks) 20, T S Curtis (c Noon b Franks) 20, G A Hirst (b b Franks) 40, W P C Weston (b Hart) 7, V R Spurr (b Hart) 7, S S Bailey (not out) 0, A Lushfield (c Robinson b Aizawl) 24, D Davidson (c Noon b Franks) 18, R J Chapman (c Noon b Franks) 15, W K Ellis (not out) 5, M Ramey (not out) 2, Extras (b 1, lb 10, w 5, n 4) 20, Total (4 wickets, 47 overs) 202.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-39, 3-44, 4-58, 5-58, 6-111, 7-178, 8-181, 9-185.

SCORING: Tufnell 10-3-31-0, Franks 10-3-36-2, Hart 10-3-36-2, Davidson 5-0-23-3, Bailey 5-0-15-0, Aizawl 4-0-24-1.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

T R Robinson (c Hick b Chapman) 4, M P Downes (lbw b Ellis) 14, G F Archer (c Chapman) 15, G R Ford (not out) 82, A J Patel (c Moody b Chapman) 10, C M Taylor (c Robinson b Aizawl) 9, R T Gales (c Moody b Bailey) 10, M M Noon (c Davidson b Bailey) 15, A A Metcalfe (lbw b Bailey) 2, J P Hart (c Davidson b Leathbridge) 12, J P Francis (lbw b Leathbridge) 2, Extras (b 3, lb 4, w 9, n 4) 20, Total (4 wickets, 47 overs) 189.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-33, 3-41, 4-42, 5-54, 6-129, 7-138, 8-161, 9-185.

SCORING: Chapman 6-1-32-3, Ellis 5-1-20-1, Leathbridge 4-1-34-2, Moody 7-4-24-0, Ramey 10-0-35-1, Bailey 10-0-37-3.

Umpires: J H Hampshire and B Leadbeater.

Shah ready for stern examination

By SIMON WILDE

IT HAS taken a long time, but at last it has happened. The selectors have picked a player not because he has served his time on the county circuit, regularly scoring 1,000 runs or taking 50 wickets, but because he is touched with magic. They have glimpsed an exciting future, and they want the future to happen now.

That said, the facts about Owais Alam Shah, who was named yesterday in the England A team to tour Australia, are remarkable. He will be 18 the day before the party departs next month and has appeared in precisely three first-class matches, the first of them for Middlesex 34 days ago. He is still at Lampton School and will sit his A levels next summer.

Don Bennett, the Middlesex coach, rarely sees Shah, who has played for county age-group sides since he was 11, because he spends so much of his time — when he is not at school — playing for national youth teams. He did that so well that he usually appeared for an age group at least one higher than his "natural" one. Once, playing for England Under-15 against the under-16 side, he scored 232.

On the few occasions he did see him, it was a long time before Bennett saw him go on the back foot. "No one was quick enough to force him back. He just smashed the ball," he said. Bennett watched him play for Middlesex in the AXA Equity & Law League yesterday, but still saw little. Shah coming in with 29 balls of the innings left. He scored a composed 10 not out.

"He can still be very young in loss of ways," Graham Saville, the coach of England Under-19, for whom Shah has played for the past year, said yesterday. "But, like Anthony McGrath, once he gets in, he gives the impression he will give nothing away, as he showed by batting seven hours for 139 in Zimbabwe last February."

McGrath is the nearest thing to a precedent to Shah, but he was three years older when he toured with England A last year.

Shah was born in Karachi and came to England with his parents six years ago and whether he goes on the A tour will depend on them, and his headmaster, agreeing to him missing seven weeks of school. Shah is worried about what the effect will be on his studies.

Saville was recently sounded out about which were the best of his under-19 players by Graham Gooch, an England selector. "I had no hesitation in giving him my choice and it was Shah first, ahead of Ben Holoake and David Sales. They have got to be mentally strong enough, and I think he is. It will be hard cricket in Australia and do him enormous good."

OLD TRAFFORD SCOREBOARD

AXA Equity & Law League

Lancashire v Middlesex

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire won toss. Lancashire beat Middlesex by six wickets.

Middlesex: P N Weekes (c McKinnon b Green) 23, V P Dunch (c Farnborough b Chappell) 0, M P Ramey (not out) 74, J C Poppley (c Giffen b Green) 10, R K Roper (b Davidson) 2, A J Smith (not out) 10, R L Johnson (not out) 10, Extras (b 3, lb 1, w 1) 18, Total (4 wickets, 40 overs) 185.

P H West, R A Fay and A R C Fraser did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-50, 3-74, 4-87, 5-138, 6-163, 7-165.

SCORING: Chappell 7-1-19-1, Martin 5-2-16-0, Giffen 5-1-27-0, Green 5-0-22-2, Yates 8-0-31-1, Williamson 8-0-44-2.

LANCASHIRE

J E R Giffen (c Brown b Hewitt) 9, P C McKinnon (c Fay b Hewitt) 17, J P Crowley (c Hewitt) 46, G D Lloyd (c Weekes) 58, A H Farnborough (not out) 17, M Watson (not out) 5, Extras (b 5, w 9) 14, Total (4 wickets, 37.5 overs) 168.

W H Hogg (c Yates, P J Martin, G Chappell and R J Green) did not bat. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-34, 3-137, 4-153.

SCORING: Fraser 8-1-25-0, Hewitt 8-0-30-3, Johnson 8-0-36-0, Fay 4-1-13-0, Dunch 4-0-31-0, Watson 5-0-28-1.

Umpires: V A Holder and R A White.

RADIO CHOICE

A universal puzzlement

Companion to the Cosmos. Radio 4, 9.00pm.

No complaints from me about the actual quality of Geoff Proudie's musical threads that embroider John Gribbin's cosmological series. It's just that I can't puzzle out what their purpose is. Scientific types don't need them because they require no inducements to stay with programmes that are food and drink to them. Non-scientific types like me resort to them because sugaring the pill reflects on our ignorance. And anyway, I never know what to concentrate on, the words or the music. *Companion to the Cosmos* comes clean and admits it doesn't know how the Universe began, though it does come up with some fascinating ideas about the first billion-billionths of a second of its existence.

Classic FM Evening Concert. Classic FM, 8.00pm.

Manchester's brand-new concert hall opens tonight. It is the Bridgewater Hall, a 2,400-seat steel and glass affair which cost something like \$42 million. It will compete with the Free Trade Hall, long associated with the Halle Orchestra, which will now be housed at the Bridgewater. Tonight's gala concert features the Halle and its choir under Kent Nagano. Two works in particular should test the new hall's acoustics. Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*. There's also a world premiere: George Benjamin's *Sometime Voices*, with baritone William Delys as soloist.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

6.30am Stereo: Chris Evans 6.00, Simon Mayo 12.00, Lisa Farnson 2.00, Nicky Campbell 4.00, Mark Goodier 7.00, Evening Session, with Mary Anne Hobbes and Steve Lamacq 9.00, Alan Parker — Road Warrior (1) 10.00, Mark Lamas 12.00, Claire Sturgess 4.00, Charlie Jordan

RADIO 2

6.00am Stereo: Martin Kelner, 6.15, Focus for Thought, 7.30, Sarah Kennedy 9.30, Ken Bruce 11.30, Jimmy Young 1.30pm, Debbie Threlker 3.00, Ed Stewart 5.00, John Dunn 7.00, Jim Lloyd with Folk on 8.00, The Hidden Tradition (4), 8.30, Simple Life (2), 9.00, South African Celebration (1), 9.30, Nigel Ogden 10.30, The Jamesons 12.00am, Steve Madden 3.00, Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00, The Breakfast Programme 6.30, The Magazine 12.00, Midday with Mark, and 12.30pm, Moneycheck 2.00, Ruscote on Five, incl guest of the day, and at 3.45, Entertainment News 4.00, Newsnight, and at 5.45, Entertainment News 7.00, News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sports Bulletin 7.35, Trevor Brooking's Football Night, Action News, the first round in the European Champions' League, with Manchester United and Rangers hoping for European glory 10.00, News Talk, Top political stories of the week 11.00, Night Extra, with Valerie Sanderson 12.00am, After Hours, with John Diamond 2.00, Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

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Once past the elephants, it all became clear

When a four-star general starts talking elephants, it tends to be time to take away his weapons of war. Thankfully, however, General Norman Schwarzkopf, has already swapped his for retirement, which meant we could sit back and enjoy *Timewatch: Hannibal and Desert Storm* (BBC2) without worrying... well, not too much. It was time to talk elephants, serious elephants. Did you know, for instance, that Hannibal's *ma-houty* went into battle armed with a sharp spike and a hammer? Or that going up the Alps on an elephant is one thing, but coming down quite another? Or even, that if you are about to set off on a 1,200-mile march through Spain, across France and into Italy, you are best off taking Indian elephants or, failing them, African forest elephants? The African bush elephant would hardly get you past Gibraltar, apparently.

"What's all this got to do with *Desert Storm*?" you're asking. And for the first ten minutes of last night's fascinating programme, I asked myself exactly the same question. But after a few sweeping statements, such as "the truth is that it was Hannibal who inspired the battle plans used to such devastating effect by the allied coalition in the Gulf", it quickly became clear that the answer was "precious little".

For what we had here was not quite the complex comparison of military tactics that it purported to be. This was a straightforward history lesson, a welcome and well told reminder of what Hannibal actually did once he had got those elephants over the Alps. Maps and computer graphics kept the geography and battles under control, while Schwarzkopf supplied the admiring footnotes. The first thing I ever learned in the study of military art was about the great

captains, and the great captains start with Hannibal. "Military art", it emerged, is one of those curious euphemisms for killing people, an art in which Hannibal of Carthage was well versed. On the banks of the Trebbia, his forces killed 20,000 Roman soldiers before breakfast. At Lake Trasimene, the Romans lost 30,000 more. The however, were but warm-ups to the big one — Cannae, when 80,000 legionaries took on the remnants of Hannibal's footsore but battle-hardened army — and lost.

According to Schwarzkopf he pulled off this "superb victory" by employing three principles of war: mass, manoeuvre and... one that I've forgotten, so for goodness sake don't ask me to lead you into battle. Was it mass? Or manoeuvre perhaps? Who knows, but there would have been plenty of both, according to

Stamp, turned his attention to what happened next. For just as the Allies never got to Baghdad, Hannibal never marched on Rome. He believed that the humiliation inflicted at Cannae would cause the collapse of the Roman political system. Just like the Allies, he was wrong. The killing got more specific in *Network First: A View to a Kill* (ITV). There were two main stories. In 1988 Leo Jenkins, convicted burglar freed from a Texas prison under a controversial early release scheme, shot and killed Mark and Kara Kelley in the pawn shop they ran for their parents. Eight years later the state of Texas was about to let Jenkins. What made this tragic story unusual was that for the first time, the victims' relatives would be allowed to watch the execution. Understandably, Rod Williams' film of the week leading up to the execution concentrated on

Linda Kelley. Mark and Kara's mother, a decision which in turn made it impossible to come to any objective conclusions about the rights and wrongs of what was going on. Like the Kelleys, we were too close. But not close enough for some. *People* magazine had passed up on the Kelleys' story when it learned that it would not be able to witness the execution. It is to Williams' credit that his film kept such voyeuristic tendencies firmly at bay.

It was the detail that stuck in the memory. The fact that there is a dress code for watching executions — "no tank-tops, cut-offs or see-through fabrics". The discovery that the condemned man's last meal is not anything he wants, but anything he wants which happens to be in the prison kitchen. Jenkins was a cheeseburger and fries man. Others apparently are more ambi-

● Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

our man in the shadows, Andy McNab. Killing 50,000 Romans in a single day, he pointed out, would have been a messy business. Schwarzkopf was confident there were parallels to be drawn between Cannae and Desert Storm. But for all his maps and diagrams I wasn't altogether convinced. No elephants, for a start. We seemed on surer ground when the producer, Jonathan

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (65121) 7.00

6.25 Breakfast News (CeeFax) (56492)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (CeeFax) (8935169)

9.20 Style Challenge (3358643) 9.45 Kilroy

(1306169) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't

Cook (74072)

11.00 News and weather (4682701)

11.05 Erebus: The Aftermath. (1/2) Film

dramatising one of the world's worst air

disasters — the destruction of an Air New

Zealand DC10, which flew into the side of

a mountain in November 1979 (1/2)

(55730140)

12.50pm Mary Berry's Ultimate Cakes

(1159275)

1.00 News and weather (94409) 1.30

Regional News (45342979)

1.40 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (3261089)

2.00 Call My Bluff (6270691) 2.35

Turnabout (1514169) 3.00 A Week in

the Country (5530)

3.30 Arts in Your Hands (8198343) 3.50

ChuckleVision (1815879) 4.10 Get

Your Own Back (7665140) 4.35

Cartoon Critters (4828546) 5.00

Newsworld (7901362) 5.10

Blue Peter (CeeFax) (s) (2614121) 5.35

Neighbours (1) (CeeFax) (s) (179275)

6.00 News and weather (CeeFax) (817)

6.30 Regional News (169)

7.00 Small Talk Quiz show hosted by Ronnie

Corbett (CeeFax) (s) (7459)

7.30 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stabileford

reports from Australia on how mothers-to-

be can now get an extraordinary

memento of their unborn baby — a 3D

plastic model of the foetus while it is still in

the womb. Plus news from America on a

revolutionary new, dimpled, baseball bat.

Shahzad Pakravan tests it (CeeFax) (s)

(463)

8.00 **CHOICE** Big Cat Diary. Topical wildlife

reports from Kenya's Masai

Mara Simon King and Jonathan Scott

follow the action as a camera crew trails a

cheetah and her cubs, a pride of lions

and the elusive leopard (CeeFax) (s)

(3879)

8.30 Ned of Kin. Comedy series with

Penelope Keith and William Gaunt (1)

(CeeFax) (s) (5614)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News, regional news and

weather (8053)

9.30 The Thin Blue Line: Night Shift. Ben

Elton's comedy series set in Gasforth

police station. The station is full of juvenile

yobs, but then that's CID for you (1)

(CeeFax) (s) (42530)

10.00 **CHOICE** QED: Life on Ice (CeeFax) (s)

(925058)

10.35 International Comedy Dancing. (1/2) (s)

(71091)

11.25 **FILM:** The Sunshine Boys (1975).

Comedy based on the successful

Broadway play by Neil Simon. Two former

vaudeville comedians agree to bury the

hatchet and come out of retirement to do

a television special. With Walter Matthau,

George Burns, Richard Benjamin and

Lee Meredith. Directed by Herbert Ross

(1979) (111) 1.00 Late Show, with David

Letterman (4430481) 12.00 Hi Me Long

Play (393567)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour

6.00am Sunrise (595353) 9.30 News

12.50pm News (595353) 2.30 News

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BY PETER BALL

"What happened to George was discussed by myself and my fellow directors," Fotherby said. "and we decided it



For his part, Leeds represents the big stage he wants, unlike Manchester City, whom he turned down last week. While City's search continues unsuccessfully, Sheffield United yesterday refusing them permission to approach Howard Kendall,

He has also shown himself to be, in his own words, "a canny operator" in the transfer market. As Wilkinson failed to spend the money injected by Caspian before he was dismissed, Graham will have around £10 million at his disposal. It is a significant sum if he goes abroad: less so

"At Highbury, I was fortunate to join a club which had

A black and white photograph of a man in a dark suit, white shirt, and striped tie. He is standing on a tennis court, leaning against a net. The net has the word "Swon" written on it in large, bold letters. The man is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows the tennis court's surface and some foliage.

Graham relaunches his managerial career after a 17-month absence with a kick-start at Elland Road yesterday

For the moment, he has not decided on an assistant. David O'Leary, his regular golfing partner during his year out, and Stewart Houston, his

assistant at Arsenal, are among the favourites. Whether he will also return to Highbury for any of his old players is likely to provoke much speculation in the coming days, although Tony Adams, the commanding defender Leeds need, is unlikely to be available.

Wilkinson was not the only person to leave Leeds this week. Peter Gilman, one of the three major shareholders, along with Fotherby and the former chairman, Leslie Silver, was voted off the board yesterday. Gilman had opposed the sale to Caspian in the summer.

By PETER RALL

end of the season, we had a game-plan of what we were trying to do. But we were waiting and waiting. Waiting for the end of the European championship; waiting for Alan to come back for me-



Harford: confident

"You've got to have a game-plan in everything," he said, "and if that means taking a few punches on the chin, then you have to do it. Of course, it might be me taking the punches. If that's the case, so be it. But the decisions are made by the people in charge."

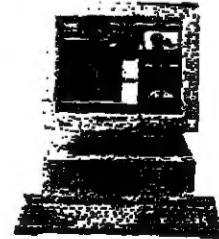
BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Jim McLean said: "As directors of the club, we have to make decisions in the best interests of our own club, and the experience and ability of Tommy makes him the ideal man to take the helm here."

Iain Munro was another manager to accept a new job yesterday, leaving Hamilton Academical to join St Mirren.

Sandy Clark, his assistant, was also leaving.

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